DISTRICT 8 - LPA Vol. 1 1940 - 1975

News Clips Creator: Dorothy Gill

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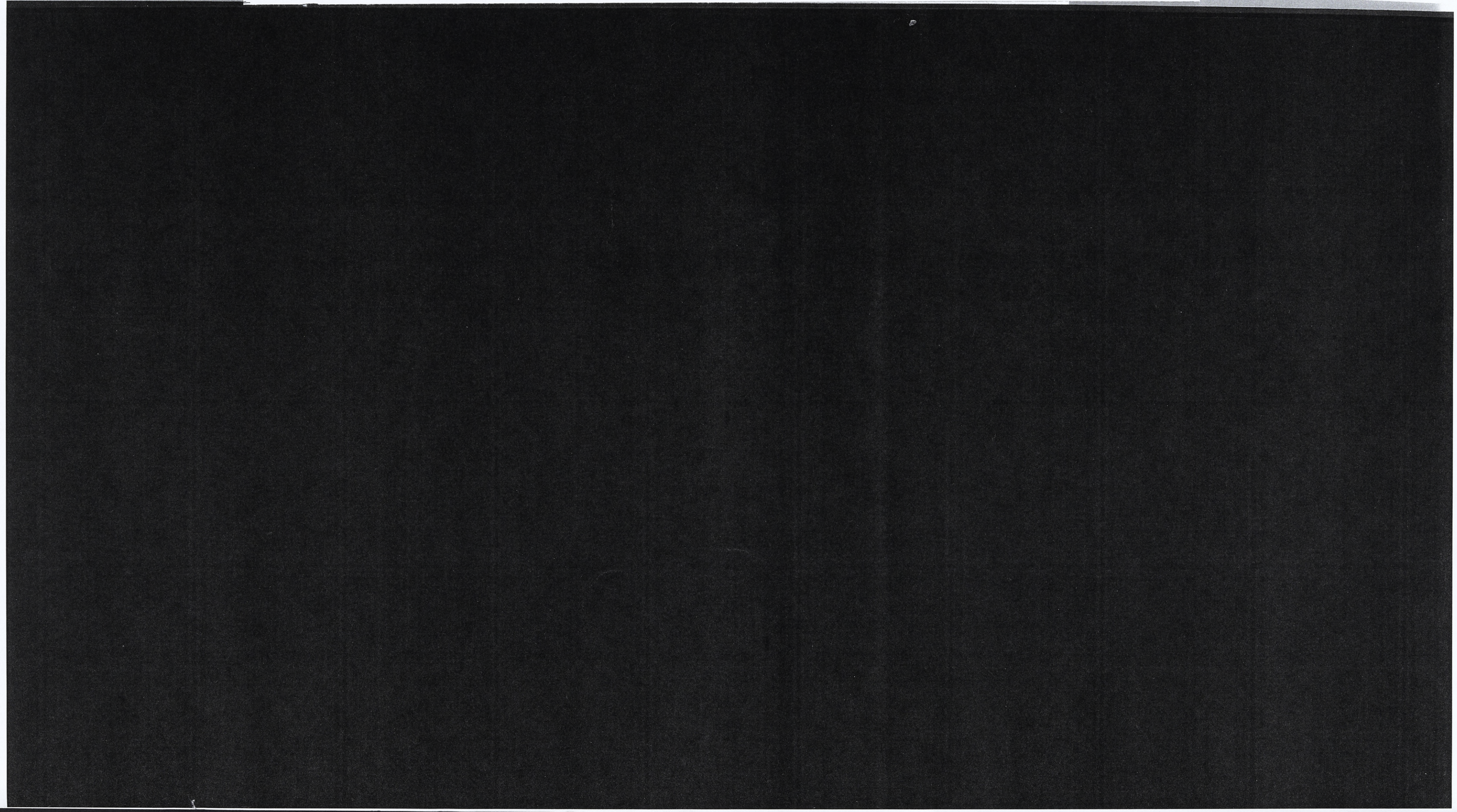
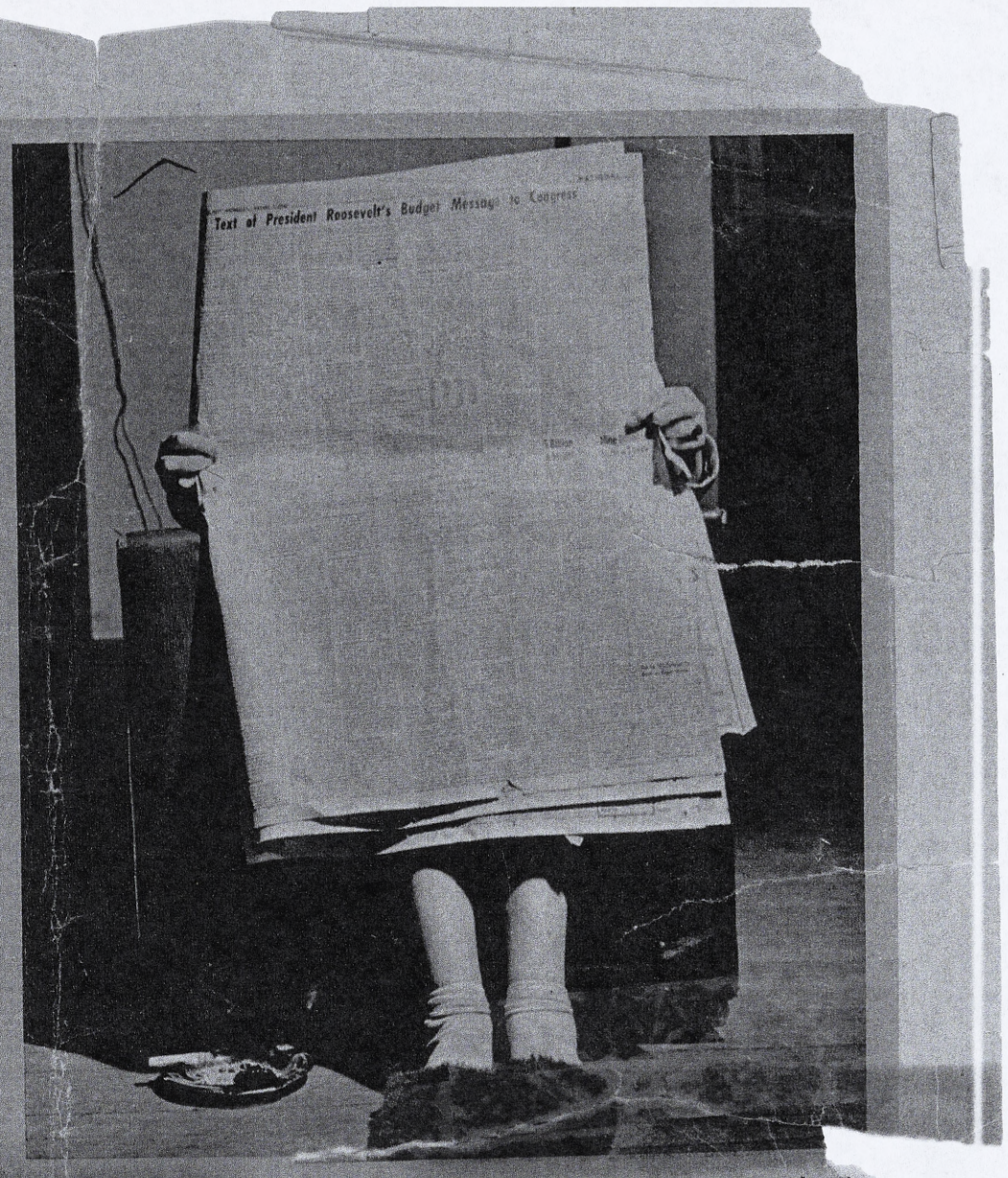


Dorothy Gill

Dorothy Gill was the mother of two LP sons, Ricardo and Arturo. Both sons were born in Puerto Rico and later moved to New Orleans with their mother.

She and the boys became members of LPA in the 1960's after she met Carol Gracco, DiAnn Locicero and Irwin Noyes.

After each meal the women of the house dutifully wash the dishes. Though the midgets eat less, all their eating utensils are the standard size.



Prettiest of the midget women is Sadie McDonald whom you can identify by her slippers. On the opposite page she's the one with the sweater.

War-Stranded British Midgets Set Up House in Long Island

SPOT Photos by Joel-Graphic House

IN AN old [illegible] mansion near from the site of the New York World's Fair where they worked for two years, 15 loyal little Britons have set up housekeeping for the duration. Their house has 15 rooms, is mostly furnished with the midget-sized tables, beds and chairs they brought from England. But they're involuntary exiles, and if it hadn't been for the Jap attack on Hawaii, would probably have gone home together on a chartered Clipper.

Manager of the midgets is Fred Roper, a normal sized (6 ft.) Englishman, who brought 30 midgets to the U. S. in 1939. A year ago he let half go home by boat, the other half he kept here to appear in vaudeville. Few bookings have materialized, however.

The Max Chrystolears, oldest of the two couples, are 40. Midgets seldom have children.

Four of the girls share a single bedroom, the men prefer double and single rooms. The girl smoking is Edith Rollson.

For recreation the midgets do little but read and knit for British soldiers. They seldom converse.

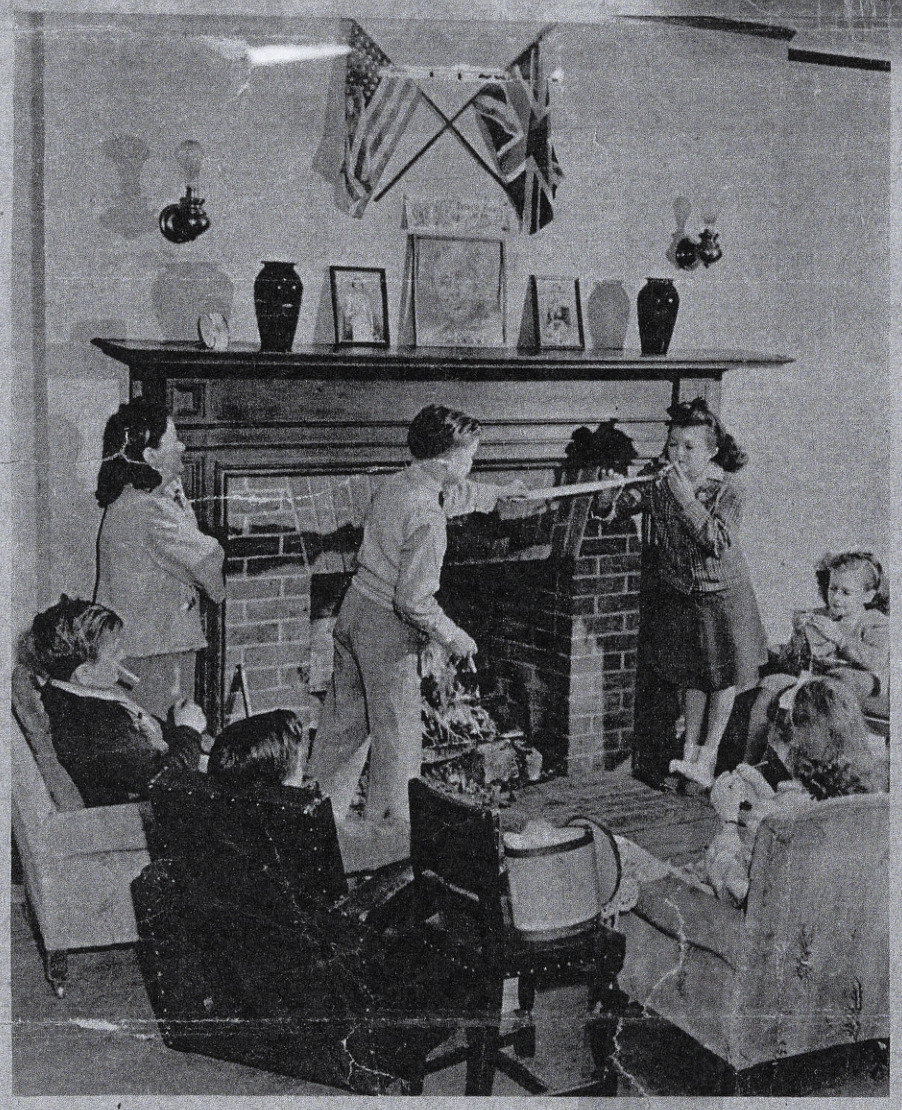
Continued on Next Page

Fred Roper's Wonder Midgets

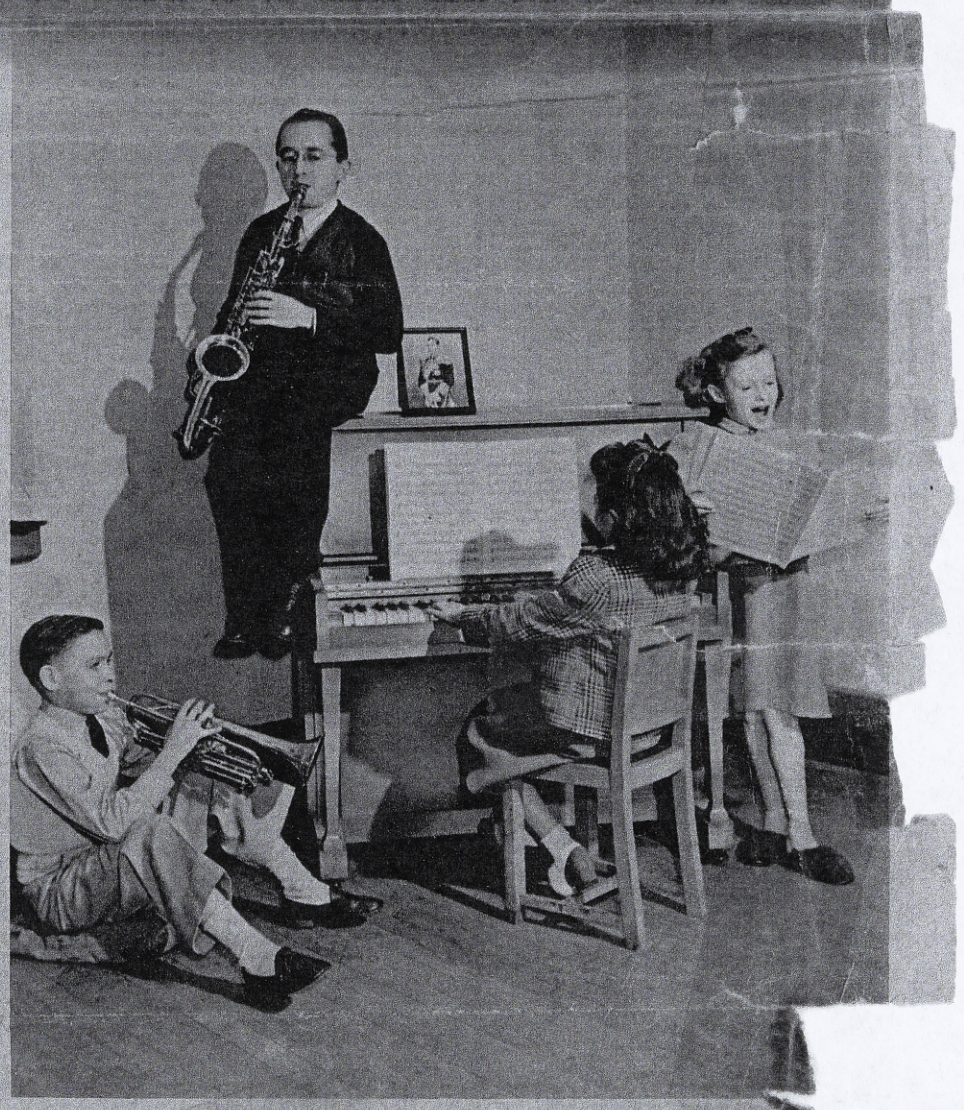
Fred Roper, an English producer managed a troupe of little people called "Fred Roper's Wonder Midgets". In 1939 he contracted with Morris Gest, a New York producer, who was presenting a midway attraction at the 1939 World's Fair called l "Miracle Town". All the performers at "Miracle Town" were pituitary dwarfs who could sing, dance, perform skits, and generally entertain an audience.

British Midgets [Concluded]

TO BE NEAR THE FIREPLACE THEY EAT IN THE LIVING ROOM. SINCE THE LITTLE FOLKS' AVERAGE HEIGHT IS 3 FT., 9 IN., THEY'RE TOO SMALL TO SIT AT ROPER'S TABLE



Inveterate smokers, the midgets are fond of American brands. Lighting Edith's cigarette is Jimmy Wetton, 21, the troupe's youngest member.



Though they don't listen much to music on the radio, the midgets like to play it. When this picture was taken they were working on Tschaikowsky.

After the NY Fair Roper sent part of the troupe back to England, and planned to go on tour in the United States. He rented a home in Flushing, N.Y. to house himself, the animals and the members of the troupe. It was the depression and the group could not find work. To make matter worse Germany and Italy declared war against the United States in late 1942. The troupe remained in the U.S. until mid 1941 when they returned to England.

Midgets Will Meet in Short Convention

RENO, Nev., March 9. (U.P.)—The world's first convention of midgets will be held April 3-4 at the Riverside Hotel here, according to organizer Billy Barty, four-foot, 80-pound member of the Spike Jones congregation.

"It's high time we little fellows organized," Barty said. "We have absolutely no protection from things such as telephone booths where we can't reach the phone, theater seats we are lost in, tall people that step on us — and smart alecs who pat us on the head and want to pick us up."

1957

Reno May Host National Midget Parley In April

RENO, Nev.—The nation's midgets, if the plans of Billy Barty go through, will meet in convention here April 3rd and 4th to deal with "the big problems which face us little people."

Barty, who is one inch less than four feet, proposes to organize the Midgets of America. He estimates there are about 160 well proportioned midgets in the United States on the basis of one per 1,000,000 births.

FAIR OAKS: Play Will End —The final performance of the junior class play Arsenic And Old Lace will be at 8 PM tonight in the San Juan High School.

1957

Dominant gene - Achondroplasia - 1 in 9,400

(1960)

Committee on Genetic Effects of the National Academy of Sciences estimates that out of the next 100 million persons, 2 million will suffer structural or functional defects because of genes transmitted by parents.

1961

In case you are wanting some idea how much it may cost to go to Las vegas, this is a summary of our expenses last year. We did take side trips into petrified forest, painted desert and Gramd canyon. These expenses are for Mary, our son Alan and me, taking ten days for the trip, spending onlly one night with relatives.

Meals and snacks to and from Las Vegas	36. 74	
Meals in Las Vegas at Hacienda	27.12	
Motels, tips, postcards, magazines, souvenirs, Nat'l Park fees, etc, to and from Las Vegas	43.14	a good place to economize, we stayed at very fancy motels, couldn't resist them
Hacienda Hotel tax	2.8o	
Postcards, picture ordered, tips, newspaper, etc. in L.V,	3.45	
Sitter for Alan one night during free show at another hotel	5.75	Alan attended everything else with us
Cigars, gum and candy, whole trip	5.38	
Gasoline, whole trip	(51.42)	THIS WAS REFUNDED BY THE HOTEL, as there were more than two of us in the car.
Lubrication, oil, filter, etc, had done in Las Vegas, but did not feel this should be turned in as gasoline expense	9.25	Before leaving las vegas, we truned in our gas tickets for the trip up, they doubled the amount and gave us cash.
Acutally used this much more gasolin on way home than out	.77	
	184.82	
	-51.42 returned	
	133.40	

SCIENCE

11 MAY 1962

Proud Win for a Man with a Will

To Emik Avakian communications is the most important thing in the world and he has spent his life brilliantly and laboriously solving problems in the field. He has done this under an enormous handicap, for his own personal communications have always been disrupted. Avakian has cerebral palsy: his nerves communicate incorrectly with his muscles. He cannot walk. His hands flounder jerkily. His speech is strained.

But when Avakian begins to speak, something happens. Behind the forced and gasping utterances flashes the glitter of bright thought, bold imagination and new approaches. His ideas and talents and his eagerness to use them have just won him the President's Trophy, given every year to a handicapped American.

Avakian, who is 38 and lives in Tuckahoe, N.Y., first appeared in LIFE in December 1952 with a breath-operated typewriter he had devised because he cannot use his fingers. The article helped him get a job with Teleregister Corporation where he has specialized in communication between men and machines. His successful inventions include a machine that can almost instantly find and display on a screen any one of millions of microfilmed pages—fulfilling an important need at a time when the nation's libraries and laboratories are bursting with information that no one can quickly find.

But Avakian's love is communications between men and men. He is a social person who floods his offices with a sea of memos packed with compliments, jokes, ideas and encouragement. His ability to stimulate and please has won him many friends who help him get about, eat, put together models of his inventions and who join him on gay parties.

Now Avakian has turned to a project that has a personal meaning. He hopes to devise ways to use computers to discover faulty circuits in the brain of a palsy victim and remove them by directing at them beams of radiation.

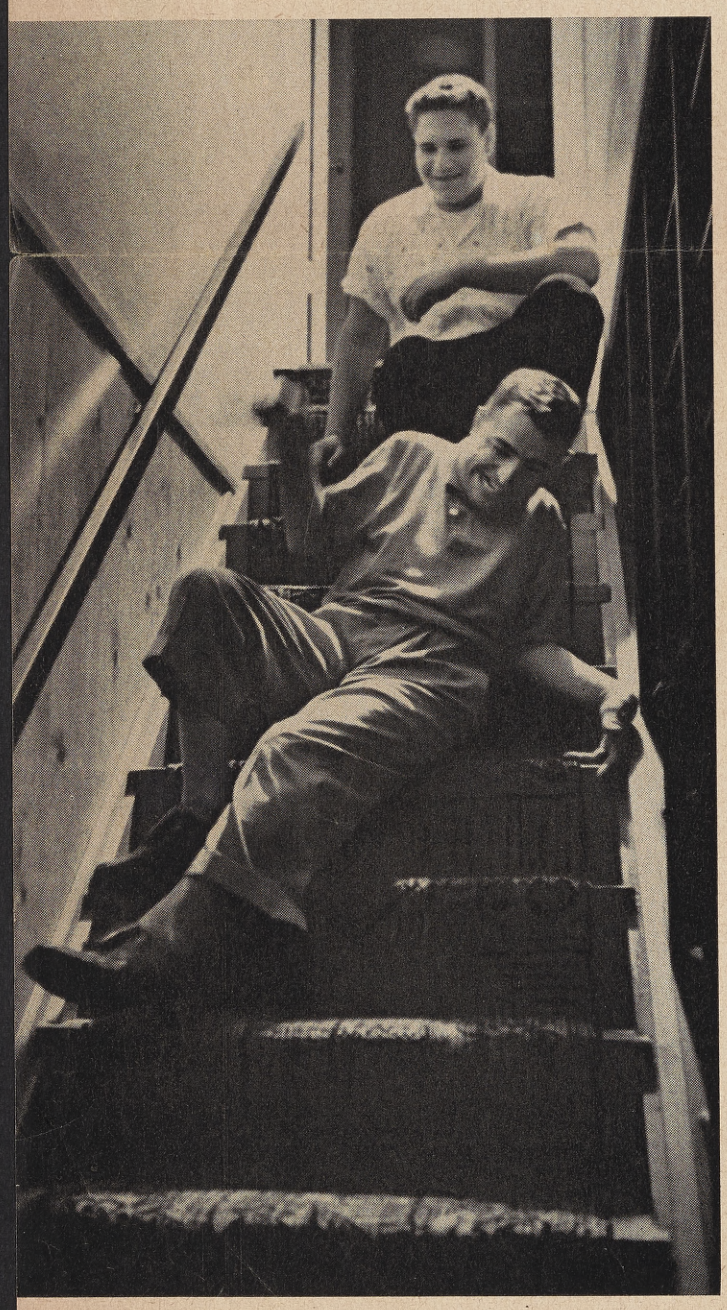
Avakian wheels his chair into a jungle of computer innards at Teleregister Corporation in Stamford, Conn. where he is a top engineer. A recent project has been helping design a machine soon to be delivered to the American Stock Exchange that reports stock quotations with an automated voice.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 56

Emik's special no-hands telephone has metal rod that holds receiver up to his ear. Secretary on extension at rear makes notes of conversations.

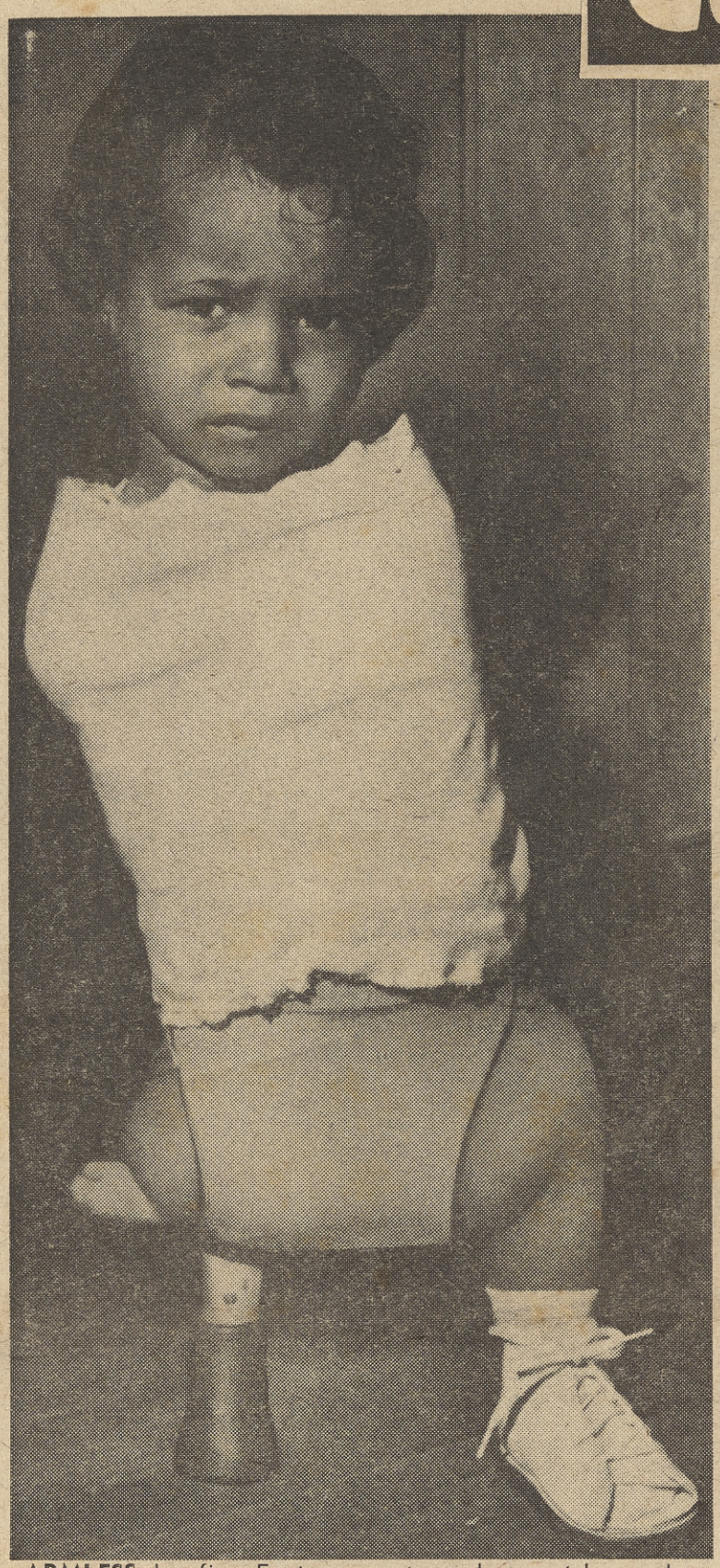
At business luncheon (*above*) Emik is fed by a young associate. Friends help him eat but he always carries plastic straws with him for drinking.

On a boat (*below*) he chartered for cruise with friends, special hoist lowers Avakian into water. He paddles for exercise and relief from tensions.



Avakian negotiates the stairs at home by sliding on his back. With him is Ken Cooper who came to solder the connections for microfilm invention.

Born Armless, Now Girl, 4, Can Feed Herself



ARMLESS Josefina Fontanez rests on her part-leg and a rubber leg waiting for her electric arm to be fitted.

FITTING: Watched by her brother and sister, Josefina is held by therapist Maria Cruz, who is about to fit the new electrically controlled arm onto the little girl.

By RALPH CARTIER

Little Josefina Fontanez wears an electric arm and hand — and it's the only good limb on her body. For 4-year-old Josefina was born with little more than a head and a torso.

The girl's future in San Juan, Puerto Rico, seemed pitiful until U.S. doctors decided to help. They fitted her with a newly developed, weird-looking contraption which has an arm and hand operated by an electric battery.

And in a remarkably short time, she learned to control the arm and hand — just by moving the muscles in her back and shoulder.

On page 1, the photo at left shows Josefina wearing her new electric arm for the first time and in the photo at right on page 1, she uses arm to feed herself ice cream.

This ENQUIRER reporter sat in Josefina's home on September 23 and was amazed as he watched the brave youngster cheerfully eating ice cream with her new "limb."

The electrically controlled arm and hooked hand are on the left side. The control system is attached to her right shoulder.

Josefina's mother, Juana, 29, placed a spoon in the hook. Then Josefina moved her right shoulder and back muscles to control the arm and hand.

She made the spoon dip down into a container of ice cream, scoop up some and bring it to her mouth.

And when she swallowed it, she rolled her eyes and smacked her lips as delightedly as any other little girl.

All of Josefina's six brothers and sisters are normal, but she was born almost limbless. She has no arms. She has no right leg — only a rudimentary growth protruding from the right side of the hip.

Her left leg is only part of a leg. It consists only of a foot with the tibia — or lower bone — attached to the hip.

When Josefina was 2 years old, she was taken to the crippled children's center operated by the Puerto Rican health department in Santurce, Puerto Rico.

There, she was taught how to use her one foot to lift things. Eventually she could lift a spoonful of food to her mouth — but it was a struggle.

Then doctors at the center learned of an experimental, electrically operated limb being developed at the child amputee center at Mary Freeman Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich.

They contacted doctors there to see if Josefina could be helped and then arrangements were made to have her flown there.

Finally on June 18, Josefina arrived in the U.S. and was taken to the hospital. The expenses were paid jointly by the Puerto Rican health department and the U.S. Health, Education and Welfare Department.

Josefina was fitted for her limb which was specially made for her. And for 74 days she was trained in the use of the electrically controlled arm and hand.

The apparatus, which cost $1,500, includes a seat bucket with a rubber leg on the right side and a hole on the left side for her one foot to fit through.

She presses against switches on the inside of the shoulder cap on the right side to control the movements of the arm and hand. Different movements of the shoulders and back muscles press different switches for moving the arm and hand in various ways and also for opening and closing the mechanical hook.

The arm on the left side is connected to a battery on the right through a vest-like apparatus strapped around Josefina's chest. The battery, good for 16 months, has a charger that can be attached to it each night and plugged into any AC outlet. By morning the charge is complete.

The device is designed to teach Josefina how to straighten up, keep her torso erect and straighten her back and shoulder muscles. The rubber leg is designed to balance her foot, but does not enable her to walk.

To get around, Josefina still has to get on the floor and roll over and over until she gets where she wants to go. But she does it cheerfully.

Her mother said: "She has more spirit than the whole family put together. She never gives up on anything."

The limb is an experimental one and the doctors are still evaluating its effectiveness.

CURIOUS: Josefina bites the strap of her new electric arm as she examines the apparatus.

1962

COURAGEOUS GIRL: Josefina gives a smile of gratitude (left) to therapist Maria Cruz, after the child's electric arm has been strapped on and (right) Josefina gets her hair combed. Then (far right) Josefina begins to feed herself ice cream.

But so far they are pleased with the way it has worked for Josefina.

Her pediatrician in San Juan, Dr. Alma Gajigas, said:

"It has worked out beyond our expectations.

"She is a wonderfully intelligent and willing little girl."

Josefina now wears her new arm at meals and for two short periods each day.

The idea is to slowly accustom her to the apparatus. Gradually, her periods of wearing the mechanical limb will be increased.

Within a few months she must go back to Grand Rapids for further evaluation.

As she grows, the apparatus will have to be adjusted to accommodate her larger size.

When her mother told her she was going to take her on a trip back to the U.S. soon, Josefina smiled at her and said:

"That's good. Can the hand go with us, too?"

Her father, Alonzo, 32, a store clerk, told me:

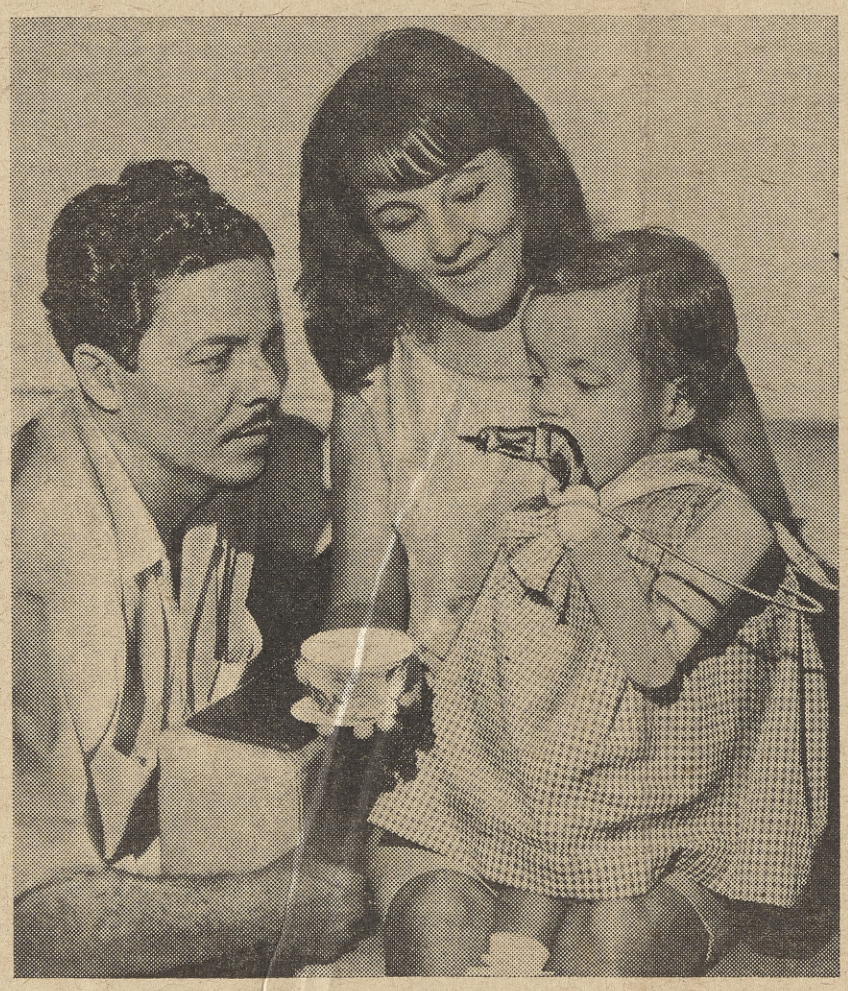
"When Josefina was born and the doctor called me to tell me about her, I felt the world was walking out on me.

"We couldn't understand it. My wife didn't use drugs during pregnancy.

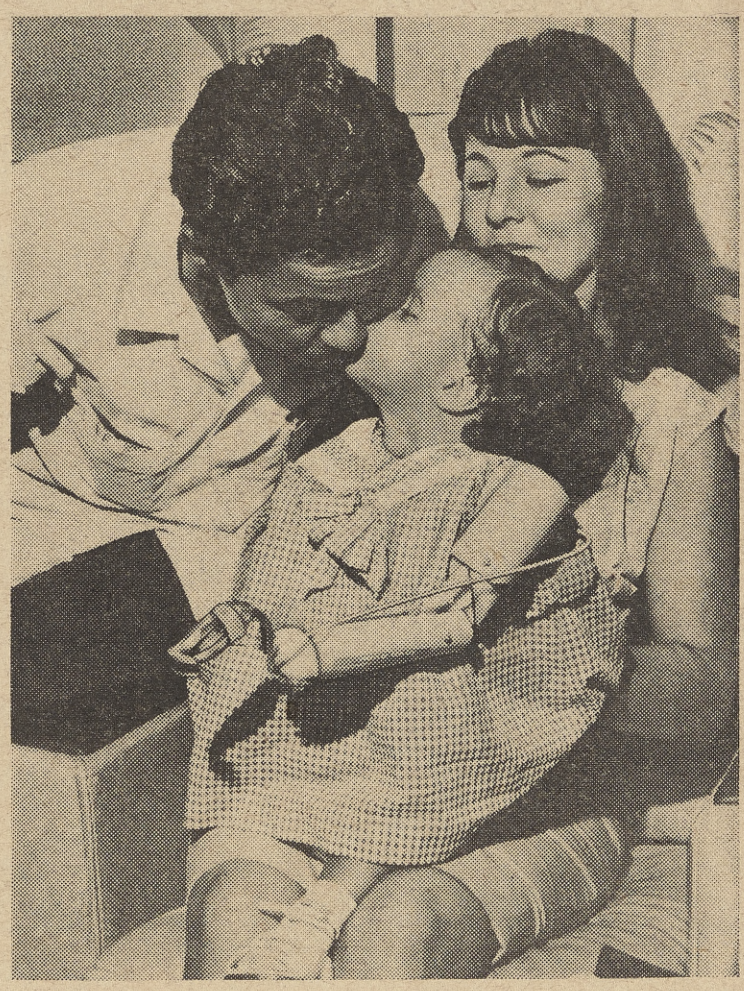
"But little by little I became adjusted to the situation and now she is the light of my life.

"Without her our home would be empty.

"She has given new meaning to both of our lives."



TASTES GOOD: As Alonzo and Juana Fontanez proudly look on and give her encouragement, their 4-year-old daughter, Josefina, uses her electric arm to finish eating her ice cream.



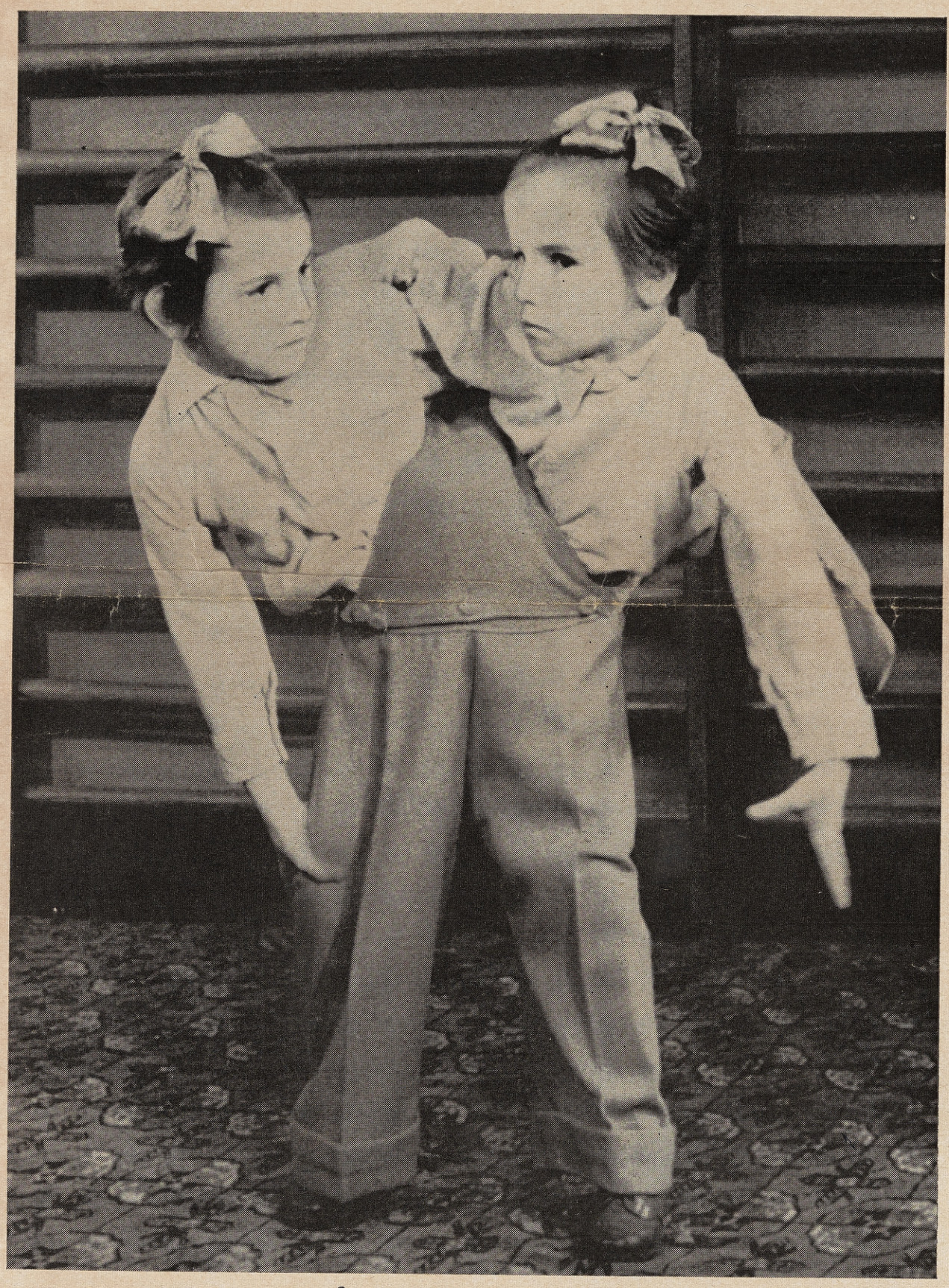
LOVING FAMILY: Sharing a kiss with her dad, Josefina sits on mom's lap after she had successfully fed herself. She uses her new arm to eat all her meals.

1963

MEDICINE

RARE STUDY OF SIAMESE TWINS IN SOVIET

Masha and Dasha



At the age of seven, Masha (*left*) and Dasha show how well they can stand up on their two good legs at Moscow's Institute of Prosthetics, where the twins lived during the years when they were learning how to walk.

Balancing themselves on shared legs, these sisters are bound to each other physically—and permanently. This picture was taken nine years ago in the U.S.S.R., when Masha (*left*) and Dasha (*right*) were 7; they are now 16. They are Siamese twins. Between them they have four arms, but only three legs—two perfectly good ones plus a third vestigial leg, partly visible behind Dasha's left arm.

Masha and Dasha were born Jan. 4, 1950, to normal parents who have other normal children. Like all Siamese twins, most of whom are stillborn, they are the result of a rare embryological accident. Their developing embryo began to split into identical twins but somehow, tragically, stopped part way, and Masha and Dasha became parts of two people joined together. Since the twins share some of their internal systems and organs (*p. 68*), Soviet scientists knew they had a unique opportunity to study human physiology. For the past 16 years, under the supervision of an eminent physiologist, Pyotr Anokhin, the girls have been cared for in Moscow medical clinics by doctors and nurses who lavished affection on them—and also subjected them to scientific scrutiny.

The girls were five years old before they learned to walk. Their left leg is controlled by Dasha and their right leg by Masha, and they had to do special exercises to learn how to coordinate. But after a protracted struggle they learned to move together quite well. Now they can ride a bicycle, dance, go up and down stairs and even climb a ladder. But their personalities are entirely different, although they have identical genes and share the same environment as fully as any two human beings ever can. Dasha—the one on the right—is quick, bright and serious. She loves to read. She is also more temperamental and usually wins a sisterly argument. Masha has always been slower. "She is a light-minded chatterbox," says Professor Anokhin, "and already flirts with boys." But a few years ago when doctors planned an operation to remove their third leg, it was serious Dasha who became so upset that the doctors dropped the idea.

CONTINUED 67

'Little People'

1965

Kitchens Finds His 'High' Place

By TOMMY AYRES
Staff Writer

Lee Kitchens lives in a world of giants. These giants' chairs are too tall, their tables too high. The phones in their booths are out of reach — it is impossible to drink at their public fountains.

Kitchens is a dwarf. Yet strangely, at only four feet, he stands taller than most men.

At Addison Airport, he stepped down from the cockpit of his own airplane, folded a flight plan and talked about a world where you always look up.

"JUST BECAUSE you happen to be handicapped, you can't expect the world to change for you," he said. "Sometimes you just have to overcome your handicap and change the world."

Kitchens should know — he is an expert on adjustment.

In Richardson, he and his wife Mary and their two adopted children live in a better than middle - class custom - built brick home filled with custom - built fixtures and furniture. All are "little people."

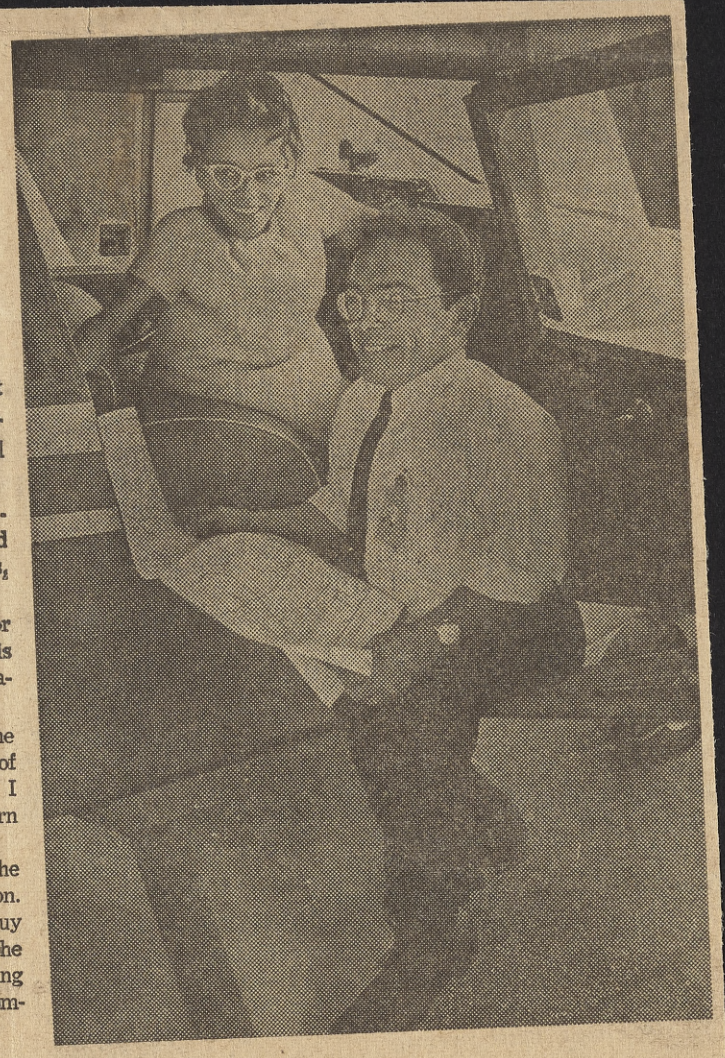
In the garage are two late - model cars, especially equipped with extensions on brakes, clutches and accelerators.

Kitchens is an engineer for Ling-Temco-Vought, Inc. He is an avid civic worker. He is a rabid aviator.

"I always loved airplanes," he says. "I got a big kick out of building models. Then one day I asked myself — 'why not learn to fly?'"

What followed is typical of the Kitchens method of operation. The first thing he did was buy himself an airplane. Then he spent almost four months having it modified so that he could comfortably reach all the controls.

THEN THERE was the problem of getting the whole package approved by exacting Federal Aviation Agency inspectors.



—Staff Photo

Lee Kitchens and wife Mary check out flight plan.

The Evening News and Star, Wednesday, January 27, 1965 D 7

HORMONE JABS

Growth Drug Boy Shot Up 3¼ Inches

By MICHAEL JEFFRIES
"Evening News" Medical Reporter

A REMARKABLE new hormone treatment has been given to four boys in a London hospital who were small for their age, with the result that they have all grown taller.

The boys, who were adolescents, had grown an average of only an inch a year for some years. All were suffering from dwarfism due to pituitary insufficiency.

But after treatment with a special hormone called H.G.H. at Guy's Hospital one of the boys grew 3¼ inches in a year.

DOUBLED

In the other three cases the boys all more than doubled their annual height increase.

Now, doctors believe, the outlook for children of short stature is much brighter.

Doctors and scientists, led by Dr. J. A. P. Trafford, Medical Registrar of Guy's, experimented by injecting H.G.H.—human growth hormone—into their bodies for between nine and 14 months.

The hormone is prepared from human pituitaries obtained from dead patients. These pituitaries are sent to scientists in America who can extract enough growth hormone for only a week's treatment for one patient.

The *London Clinic Medical Journal*, reporting the success to-day, says of the hormone: "It should be restricted to properly documented cases of this kind. It is presumably worth more than its weight in gold—it would be wicked to waste it on anyone else."

Now the London team is trying to make a new preparation of the "growing drug" so that it is absorbed more slowly into the body. A small dose over a longer period in this way will give better results, they believe.

Times Picayune
Jan 2/1965

How to Keep Well

History of Dwarfs Is Noted

By DR. T. R. VAN DELLEN
(© 1965: By The Chicago Tribune)

The achondroplastic dwarf is easily recognized by his distinctive appearance—short arms and legs in proportion to head and trunk. The cause is unknown. Inheritance may play a role but the condition seldom occurs in a second generation. Mentality and sexual development usually are normal.

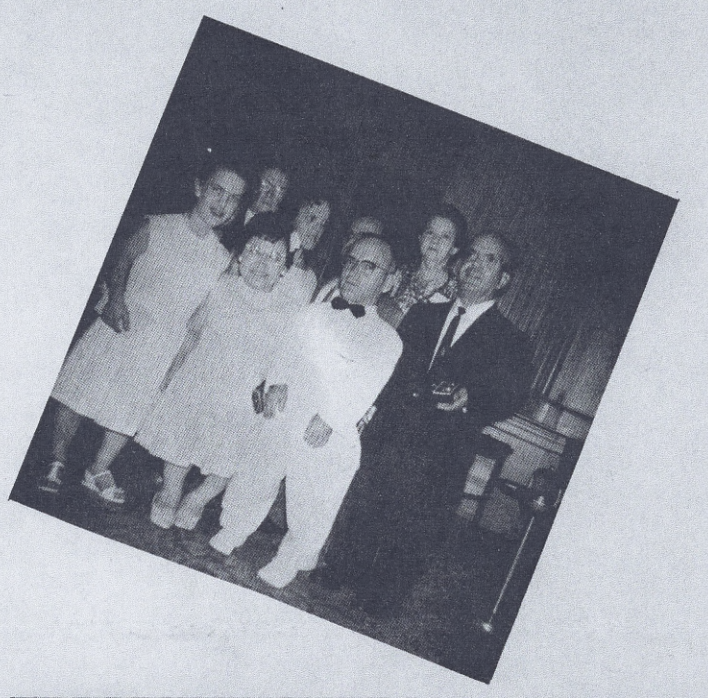
Achondroplasia involves the growth centers of all the bones but is most noticeable in the extremities because of shortening of the long bones. In addition, the natural curves of the spine are exaggerated. The forehead tends to bulge over the face and nose to make room for the brain as it grows. The skull cannot expand because the growth centers are not functioning.

These pint-sized men and women do not enjoy the prestige they had at one time, although during World War II, they were valuable in the aircraft industry for their ability in maneuvering into the small spaces of the wing and tail.

Dr. Francis E. Johnston writes that years ago dwarfs were given special recognition as shown by the number of figurines that have been unearthed by archeologists. Two Egyptian deities were in this category. Dwarfs also held positions of honor among the Roman emperors. The wealthy kept them as jesters and they also fought as gladiators. There are so many statues, drawings, and paintings of these people, their high positions in the past cannot be questioned.

They no longer are regarded as having supernatural powers or special wisdom. They are normal individuals with defects of the skeleton. But they have the distinction of having one of the oldest known diseases of men (and also of some animal groups, including dogs). Brinton's skeleton from the Neolithic period in Great Britain is an achondroplast, going back more than 7,000 years.

The causes of dwarfism vary. They include nutritional, metabolic, and endocrine disturbances. Bone diseases such as rickets may be responsible. Dwarfs are not the same as midgets, who are small but of normal proportions. Chondrodystrophy is classified with bone disorders and is not amenable to treatment.



5th Annual Convention--Hotel Kirkwood, Desmoines, Iowa--July 29, 30, 31, & Aug. 1, 1963

Iowa 1965

wheel and help develop the kind their children. teaching

HEADS DWARFS' ORGANIZATION

1964

He Leads 'Little People' In Adjusting to Big World

By TOMMY AYRES
Staff Writer

If you get down on your knees and look up at the world you will be looking at it from the permanent point of view of Lee Kitchens.

Mr. Kitchens, you see, stands only 4-feet-1 in a 6-foot world. He is a dwarf — one of this nation's approximately 5,000 "little people."

He cannot take a casual drink from a public fountain. He cannot easily use a pay telephone. He must tiptoe to see over a bank counter. He has to stretch to reach a normal wall light switch.

Yet, despite it all, Lee Kitchens is not really a little man — not when measured by the yardstick of social and economic success and personal accomplishment.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

He is an electrical engineer at the sprawling Texas Instruments, Inc., complex where he heads a test equipment group.

Last July he was elected president of the Little People of America, which has 1,100 members.

Mr. Kitchens is active in numerous church, civic and social functions. When he finds the time he is an amateur photographer and a stereo fan.

And according to his wife, Mary, Lee is an accomplished weekend craftsman around their specially designed brick home at 938 Blue Lake Circle in Richardson.

Actually, the house itself is a tribute to the thoroughness and determination of the man. Mr. Kitchens, with an architect, planned the contemporary structure for two years before the first nail was driven — designed it to accommodate every special need of a family which includes Mary, who stands 3-feet-11, and their two small adopted children, Alan, 8, and Sandra, 4.

A close check of the almost normal appearing interior reveals lowered light switches and door knobs, legs removed from stock contemporary furniture, chairs large enough to comfortably seat a six-footer, yet, designed for the convenience of their owner.

Outside in a curved driveway are two automobiles equipped with brake and accelerator extensions and special high cushion seats which are removable.

Actually the Kitchens' private and social lives are little different than those of their friends and neighbors.

Mary, an art major at Texas Women's University, keeps house and paints for a hobby. All fit comfortably into the 6-foot society.

TELLS OF AMBITION

In his 34 years Mr. Kitchens has set numerous lofty goals. In most instances he not only reached, but surpassed them.

And his most recent ambition?

"I want to carry the Little People of America message to every little person in the country," he says.

"There are so many little people who live somewhere between two worlds," says Mr. Kitchens.

"LPA gives them something to belong to — a chance to compete on equal terms — a chance to look a man in the eye," said Mr. Kitchens.

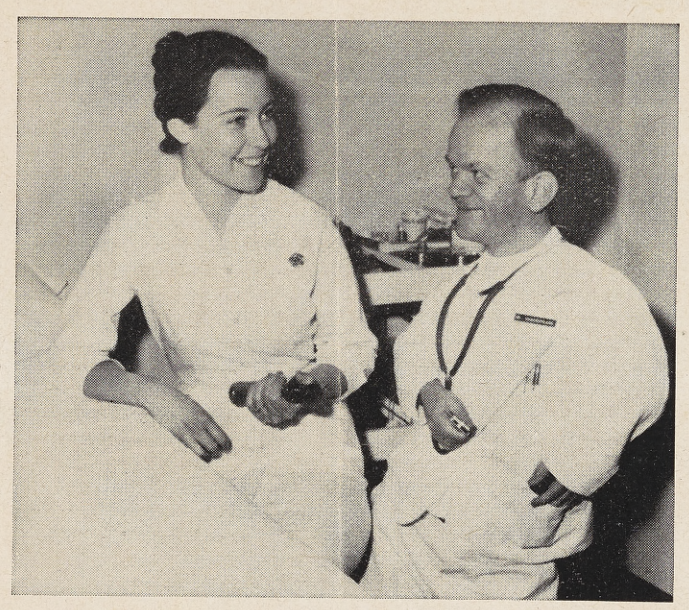
"You may not realize it," he said, "But its refreshing to look someone in the eye once in a while."

According to Mr. Kitchens, LPA boasts members from almost every profession.

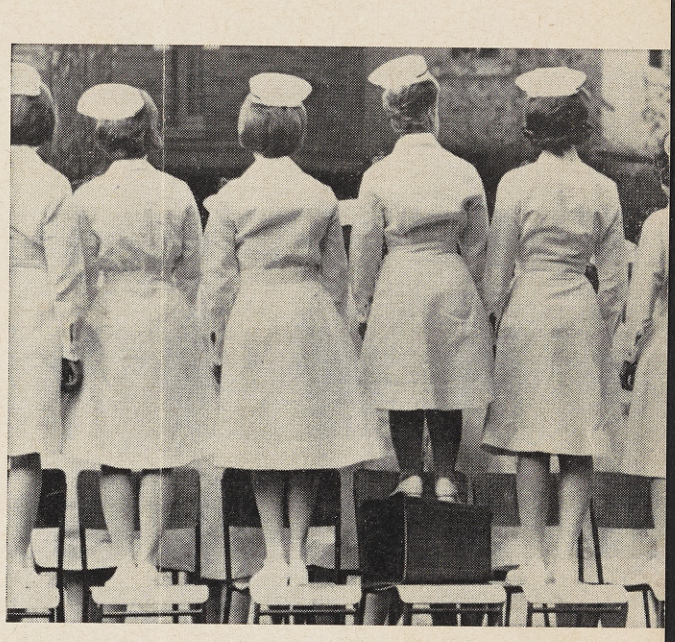
"These people can serve to in-

See DWARFS on Page 31

June 1964 "M.D."



Smiling couple are recently affianced Susan Mary Raffel, a Boston nurse, and British physician William G. Shakespeare, who claims descent from the bard of Avon. He is studying pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Boston.



Tiny Susan Wilkinson, center, poses with her graduating classmates at Toronto General Hospital's School of Nursing. She successfully equalized her height by improvising a new use for a wastebasket.

How to Keep Well

Lincoln's Long Bones Are Cited

To the limit of space, questions pertaining to the prevention of disease will be answered. Personal replies will be made when return stamped envelope is inclosed. Telephone inquiries not accepted. Dr. Van Dellen will not make diagnoses or prescribe for individual diseases.

By DR. T. R. VAN DELLEN
(©, 1964, by The Chicago Tribune)

A Terre Haute, Ind., nurse has written us concerning a news item she read about "a disease researchers believe Abraham Lincoln had; I think it is called Marfan's syndrome. I would like more information on this condition."

Interest was renewed in this hereditary disorder, first described in 1896, when it was found in a male descendant of Lincoln's great-great-grandfather (going back nine generations). The suggestion was made that the unusual physical appearance of our 16th President was caused by this syndrome, which is due to a mismatching of the chromosomes.

It involves the connective tissue of bones, ligaments, eyes, heart, and blood vessels. Excessive growth of the long bones leads to elongated arms, legs, fingers, and toes. The arm span of a normal individual is equal to his height but in Marfan's it is three inches longer.

Persons with this syndrome have little fat under the skin and the chest is caved in. The tendons and ligaments become weak and lax, leading to slouching, loose-jointedness, flat feet, hernias, cardiovascular defects or malpositioned ears. Various eye abnormalities include dislocation of the lens, cross-eye, retinal detachment, and refractive errors.

Lincoln had many of these characteristics. His extremities were out of proportion to his overall height. In sitting down, he was no taller than the ordinary man from the chair seat to the top of his head. His fingers as well as his legs were long and he had unusually large feet.

His face was long and thin and he stooped slightly when standing. There have been reports of an intermittent squint of the left eye and far-sightedness. He did not have a hernia and his heart and blood vessels probably were normal for his age at the time of his assassination.

If Lincoln had Marfan's, he was not handicapped by it. Up to now, he is the most famous of its victims.

ROUGH SPOTS

L. R. N. writes: What is the best treatment for a number of keratoses that have appeared on my back?

Reply

They are easily removed via an electric current or surgery. But this may not be necessary unless the growths change in size or color or become a cosmetic eyesore.

INTESTINAL DISORDERS

J. L. writes: Is acute gastroenteritis the same as spasms of the intestine?

Reply

No, but spasm may accompany infection of the intestine. Acute gastroenteritis stems from food poisoning or vital infection and diarrhea is the most frequent manifestation.

EYE FATIGUE

G. I. writes: Is it natural for some persons to have tired-looking eyes?

Reply

Yes — when tired. The eyes of the world-weary and cynics who have seen everything may look this way routinely.

NICOTINE STAINS

R. R. writes: I gave up smoking two weeks ago. Will the yellow stain between the index and next fingers disappear in time?

Reply

Yes. Most ex-smokers who write us have greater problems.

MILK AND ULCER

W. R. writes: Is skim milk as good as whole milk for an ulcer patient?

Reply

No, but it is a good substitute if the cream in whole milk is creating a problem.

1963

LAS GRANDES

En el apogeo de su carrera fue el artista teatral mejor pagado del mundo: $ 20.000 semanales.

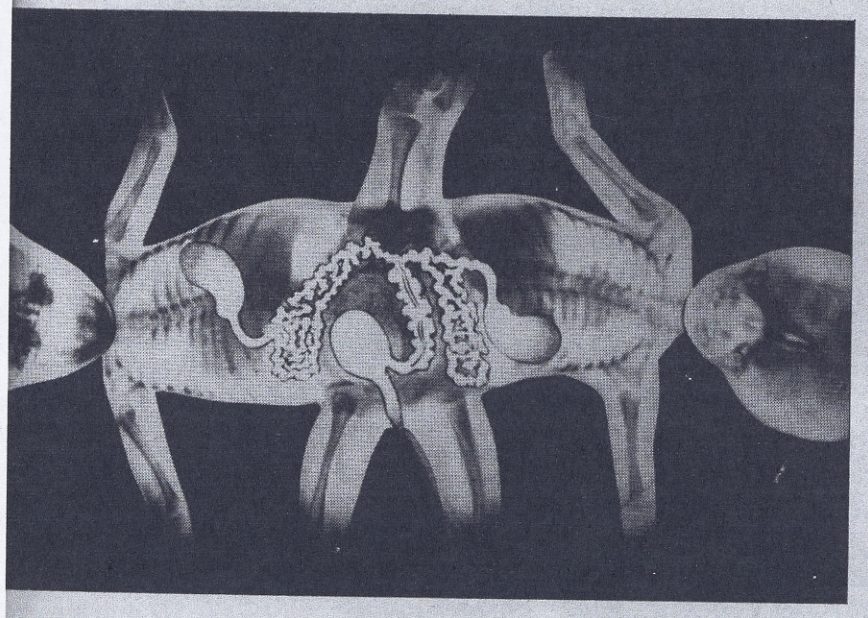
HOUDINI, "el rey de la evasión"

LITTLE TICH, el enano genial

La crueldad humana ha hecho de los enanos un tema de burla, pero Little Tich los hizo reir de otra manera.

CAPITULO II

They can sleep, cry and become ill separately



In these pictures, taken when the twins were a year old, their third leg is at the top, on the far side of their body. It has a cleft foot with eight toes. Half of it is Masha's, half Dasha's. Masha can feel pain in her half of the leg, but not in Dasha's—and vice versa. In the top picture, as a pediatrician presses on Dasha's side of the foot, Dasha cries out while Masha feels nothing. In the bottom picture Masha cries when the other side of the foot is tickled. The X-ray at left was taken when the girls were babies. A superimposed drawing shows how Masha's and Dasha's internal organs and bones are connected. Their pelvic bones join and their spines meet at the coccyx. Their circulatory system is interconnected: if one were bit ten by a poisonous snake, th venom would quickly spread t both. Although their spines con nect, their spinal cords do no Hence their nervous systems— *e.g.*, sense of touch—are totall distinct. They become ill sepa rately, fall asleep separately. The have two stomachs (visible i drawing), and separate upper in testines which join into a singl lower intestine and rectum. The have four kidneys—but only on bladder, and they don't alway agree on when to urinate; some times one twin wants to and th other doesn't. Soviet doctors sa there is no physiological reaso why Masha and Dasha coul not become a mother: they hav a common reproductive system

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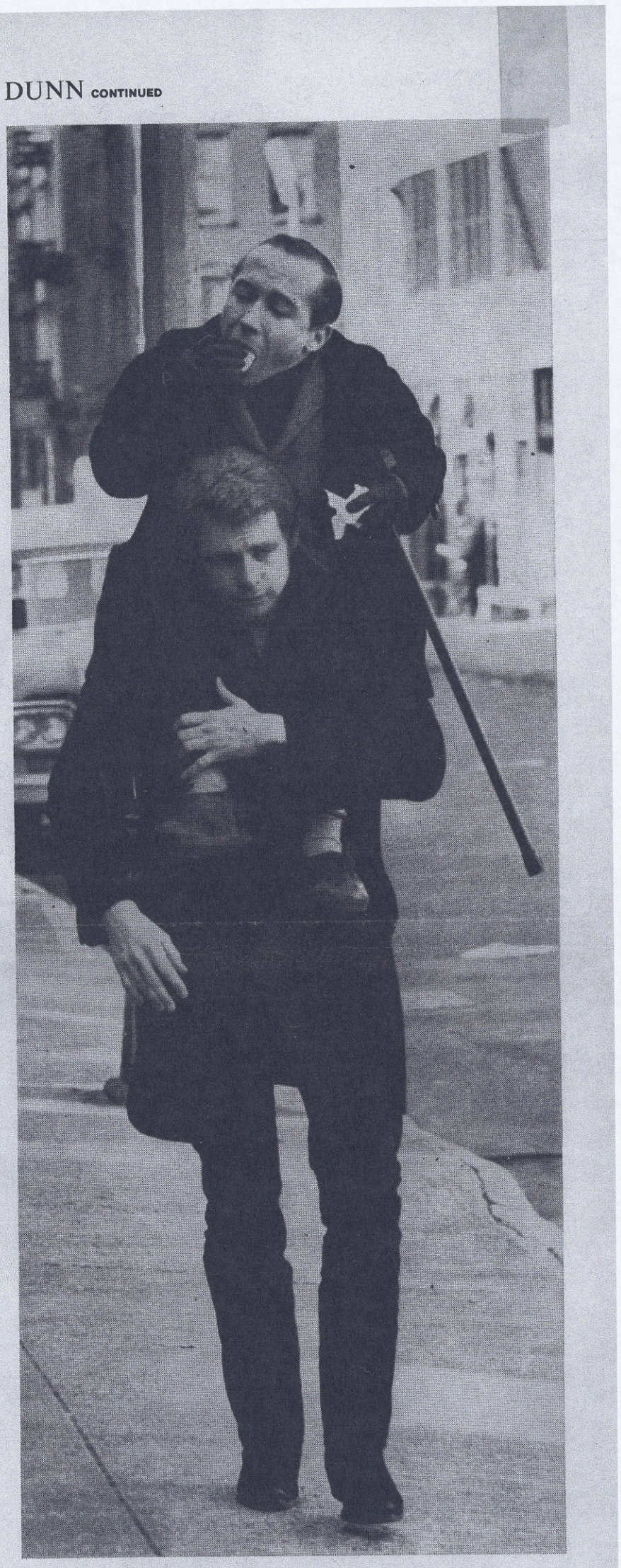


To save his limited strength for his performance, Dunn, munching a hot dog he bought at a stand, is carried to the theater by *Ballad* actor Dean Selmier.

"I've always lived with constant pain, so that wasn't a factor in whether I made a life for myself or not. I could have copped out, lived with my parents and pulled the dwarf bit."

CONTINUED

'I'm No Cutie-Midget Needing a Mother'

Michael Dunn talked to Reporter Diana Lurie about his affliction, the strains he endures and the stratagems he must use.

▸ When people make a big deal of ignoring my size, they always make me know they're being magnanimous. I've made it possible for most people to operate with me comfortably as normal human beings and to treat me as one. It's mostly a matter of showing them I'm not a cutie-midget or a young man in need of a mother. I'm just an ordinary guy who happens to be 3 feet 10.

▸ I'm not different than a week before the play opened but now people who have never talked to me want to become buddies: I suddenly have to go overboard to be friendly or they'll say I'm sluffing them.

▸ I think it's wrong to try to be something you are not. But it's just as bad to refuse to be something you can be merely because there is difficulty involved—or because it endangers a private softness you've grown used to.

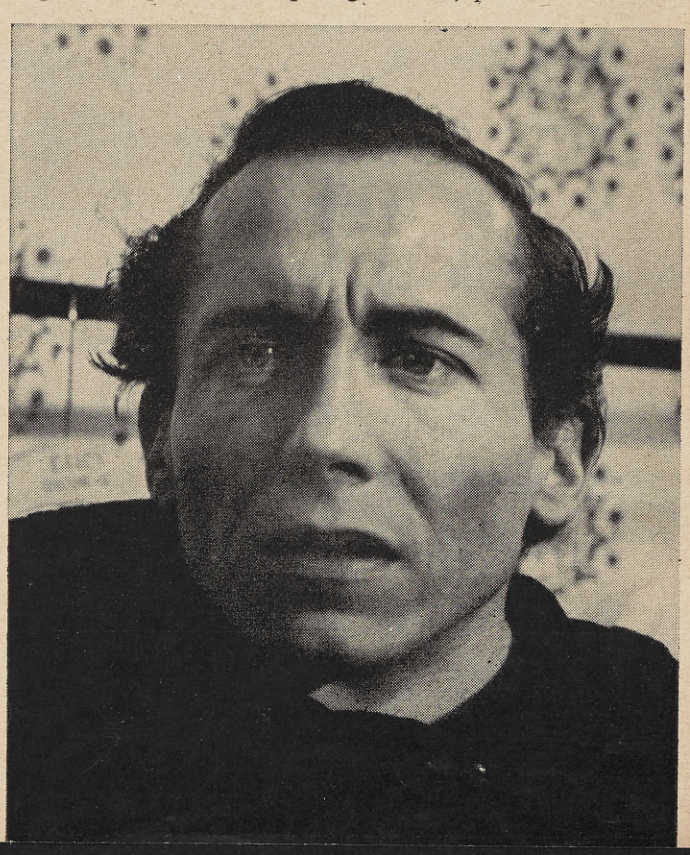
▸ The fact that there are no dwarfs around who are actors—there are a lot of professional midgets and some dwarfs who can speak lines—means there's not an awful lot of competition for roles, and I was conscious of this when I went into acting.

▸ You can suddenly find what strength or stubbornness you need to do something just because somebody says you can't. All right, Buster, I'll show you. And maybe you've never done it before. I jumped off a 36-foot-high board once when I was about 10 and couldn't even swim.

▸ I was in college and was walking with a girl when a guy got out of his car, ignored me totally and told her to get into the car, figuring what could I do. I know just where to kick somebody to break his leg—which I did. I took the girl back to her dormitory and then called the police.

▸ The function of a suit is to cover a human body. All the American tailors I've ever met ignore the fact I'm 3 feet 10 and they assiduously try to make the suit look as though I'm 6 feet tall. It doesn't work.

After curtain, strain and exhaustion tense Dunn's face. He is on stage most of play in role requiring constant, spiderlike movement.



At Downey's, an actor's hangout, and home to Dunn for five and more hours a day, he talks across the aisle to British Actor Albert Finney, star of *Tom Jones* and *Luther*.

"I like Downey's partly because most of the time nobody stares at me when there are 48 other people in the room better known than I. When anybody does sneak a look at me, I take it to mean they recognize me from the show. Whether this is right or not, I pretend it is."

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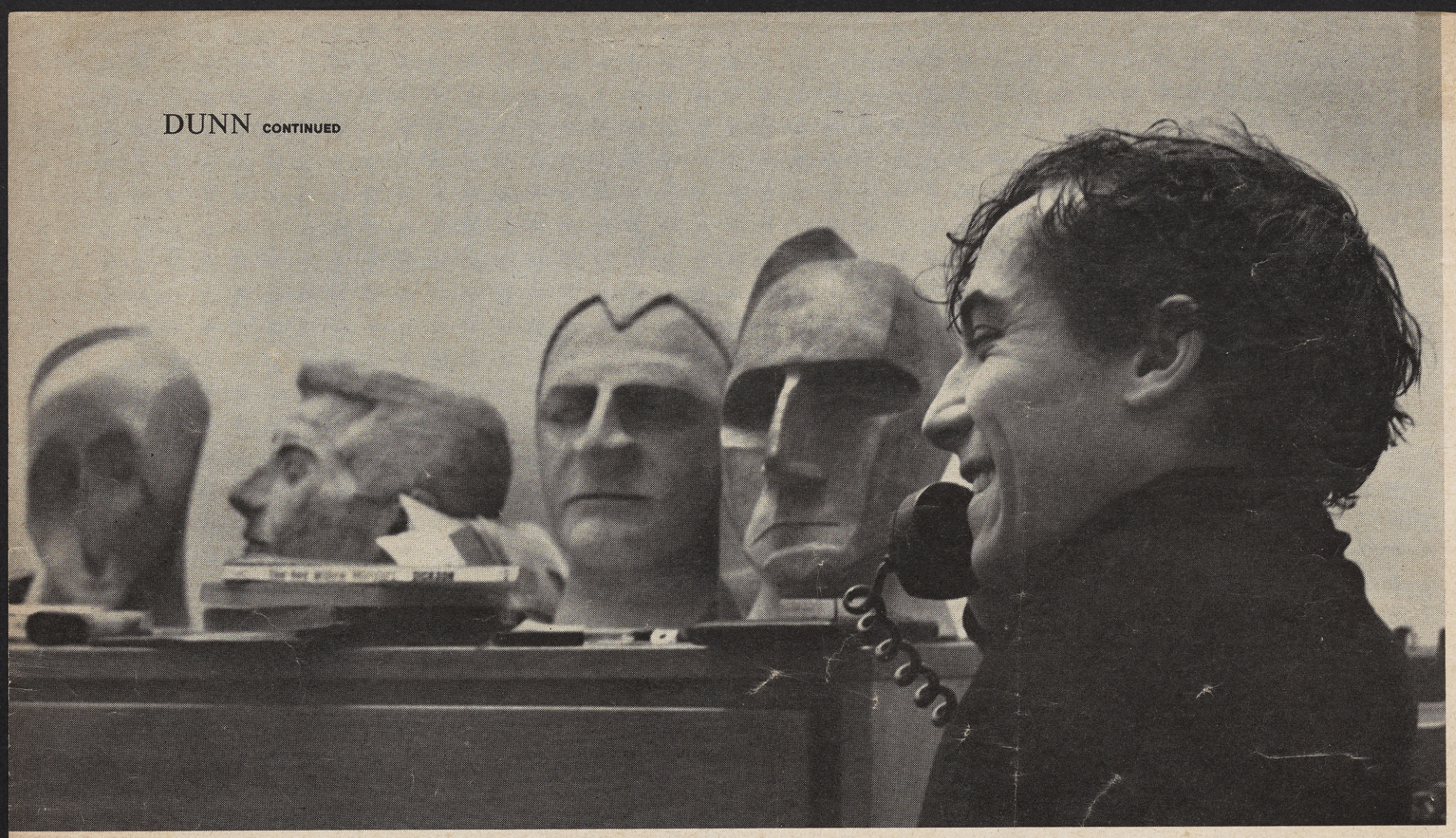
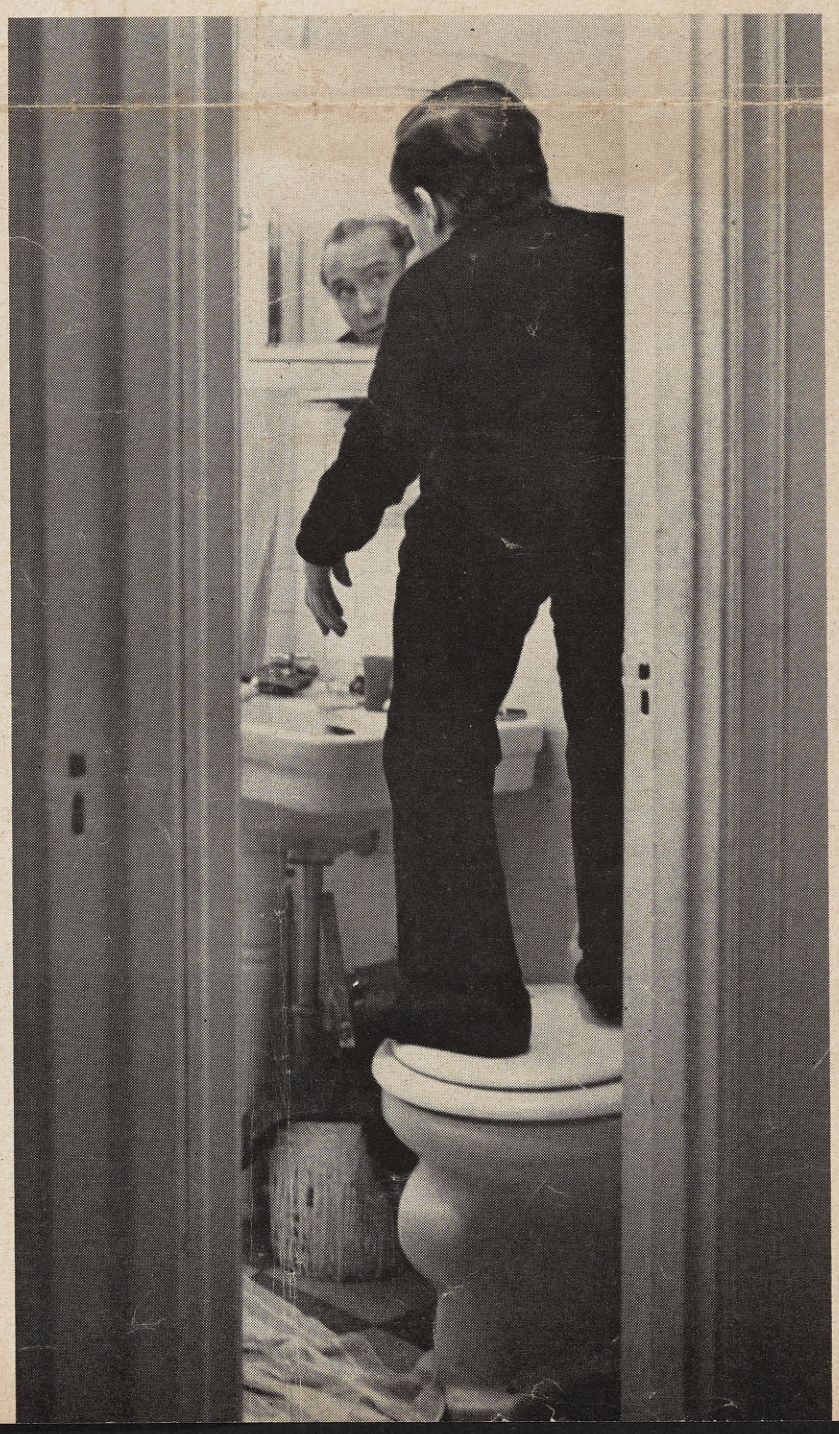


An amateur sculptor who uses friends as models, Dunn is flanked by a convocation of clay heads.

"For a while when I wasn't working I drove everybody crazy, so a friend conned me into sculpting."

At rehearsal of nightclub act which they are preparing, Dunn and Phoebe Dorin discuss song.

"Sometimes when I'm with girls, guys make pretty vicious remarks—and always to the girl. I can handle things like that, but the girls can't because they aren't used to it."



In his apartment Dunn climbs on the toilet to comb his hair before the medicine chest mirror.

"There are remarkably few things I can't do in one way or another. I don't try to beat my limitations, just get around them so, in a way, they don't ever exist."

CONTINUED

CLOSE-UP

FINE 3' 10" ACTOR RELISHES FAME

A Dwarf's Full-Size Success

Once in a while Michael Dunn unexpectedly catches sight of himself in a full-length mirror. "There I am," he says, "a dwarf. It shocks me. I just can't believe it's me. I don't feel like a dwarf inside." Yet it is as a dwarf that Dunn has achieved fame on Broadway in the role of the preening, malicious "broke-back" of *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*. His remarkable performance, which dominates the show, brought him up from a series of minor stage roles and a career as a nightclub baritone.

Dunn, who is 29, was born of normal-sized parents but was dwarfed by a bone disease called achondroplasia. His parents tried to let him live as near normal a life as possible—especially difficult because he had a genius I.Q. of 178. He even used to play football and was an exceptionally accurate passer.

All his life he has relentlessly refused to treat himself as a tragedy and is furious when anybody regards him as a cute freak or calls him "kid." "It bugs me green," he says, "when people assume I am less than human because I'm less than human size." Once a woman took him into her lap and stroked him like a child. He bit her—"because I'm a man," he angrily explained.

Triumphantly, Michael Dunn stands by theater poster of him with show's stars.

"*I do have a fairly large ego—it has to be. If I were not totally convinced I'm a superior person, I'd be a very inferior one.*"

CONTINUED

Tiny Guy Michael Dunn has more talent per ounce than anyone in show business. A veteran actor and singer —he's a dwarf. "I'm just an ordinary guy who happens to be 3-feet, 10-inches tall," he confesses. He pursues a normal life with fierce independence. On a dare, he even learned how to parachute jump. "They gave me a little red chute," he says. The kind they drop cargo with. I only weigh 78 pounds."

Michael Dunn in a tv drama

ACTOR TO WED — Michael Dunn, whose performance as the hunchback in "Ship Of Fools" won him an Academy Award nomination, announced Thursday he will marry 5-foot-4 former model Joy Talbot. The 32-year-old dwarf actor, victim of a congenital but not hereditary condition, is 3 feet 10. (AP Radiophoto)

SHOW BUSINESS

ACTORS

Elf's Progress

Michael Dunn is a dwarf. At the age of 30, he stands 3 ft. 10 in. with his socks on and weighs 78 lbs., if you include his eyeglasses. Dunn is also an actor and a singer. His talents in both areas are considerable.

Dunn dazzled Broadway a year and a half ago with a bravura performance as Cousin Lymon in Edward Albee's adaptation of Carson McCullers' *Ballad of the Sad Café*. He spat Henry Miller-authored obscenities in the 1963 Spoleto Festival production of *Just Wild About Harry*. He plays Karl Glocken in the film version of *Ship of Fools*, which premières this week. He is the comic-villain Mr. Big in an early episode of *Get Smart*, a promising new TV series due in September. And just to prove that acting is not all he can do, he has been filling a Greenwich Village nightclub with his booming baritone.

Parabolic Process. The son of an engineer, Dunn was born with two dislocated hips. "By the time I was four, I realized I would be a dwarf," he says. And when he was five, the trouble was diagnosed—chondrodystrophy, a rare form of nonhereditary dwarfism believed to be caused by a chemical imbalance during gestation. Undaunted, Dunn terrified his parents by tearing off in hot pursuit of a normal childhood. He did not quite get one, but he managed to break his nose playing football and his leg ice-skating, and he almost drowned when, at ten, he jumped off a 36-ft.-high diving board before he had learned to swim.

Fortunately he was abnormally bright and abnormally talented. He entered the University of Michigan at 15. Illness forced him to seek a more salubrious climate, however, so he transferred to the University of Miami, where he ran the school magazine, acted in plays, became a cheerleader, and earned part of his tuition by singing in a nightclub.

After graduation, Dunn briefly considered becoming a missionary ("A young man feels he has to serve") and entered a Capuchin monastery. He describes his religious experiences as "an intellectual process, probably of parabolic shape." After six months he decided he could not accept the dogma and left.

Rare Air. But from the first, his real interests had been musical. He hoped to be a pianist until the disease slowly crippled his elbows and wrists. He had, however, a naturally good voice, with sound, deep resonance for a man whose body was so small. With only a minimum of concern over the problems his size would present onstage, he decided to make his career in show business. "It's what I do best," he explains, "and I knew I could always make a living at it."

Like most starving young beginners, Dunn supported himself with odd jobs, including one as a sports rewrite man on a daily paper, another as a hotel detective. (He is an excellent shot with small arms; large guns tend to fire him rather than the bullet.) Gradually, acting jobs began materializing. He played jesters, fools, a cop and a vaudeville performer off-Broadway, made his first Broadway appearance as the insides of a robot in *How to Make a Man*.

His current nightclub act includes Artist-Actress Friend Phoebe Dorin. Cavorting and clowning on two custom-built circular stepladders that help equalize their heights, the two jolly up the Upstairs at the Duplex, a pair of gleeful grigs. All they do is sing a selection of spirituals, ballads, medleys and specialty songs—all of their own arranging—but they do it with a purity of sound and spirit that in nightclubs is as rare as fresh air.

ALFRED STATLER

DUNN IN "SHIP OF FOOLS"

When you know what you like to do, do it.

TIME, JULY 30, 1965

No Choice. Acting is now Dunn's main concern. He points out that there are many non-dwarf roles he can play, including all the fools and jesters in Shakespeare, as well as real personages tailored to his own dimensions, such as Toulouse-Lautrec and Charles Proteus Steinmetz. His next Broadway part will be Kermit Raphaelson in Edward Albee's adaptation of James Purdy's *Malcolm*, due this fall.

Professional limitations are minor compared to the trials of private elf life. Most distressing to Dunn is the weakness of his legs and hips, which cannot support him without pain or carry him more than half a block without agony. On the theory that "physically I can't compete, but my head is my edge," he has applied science and industry to all the awkward aspects of living. He can drive a car, fly a plane ("I have a sense of machines as an extension of myself"), and is a strong though not fast swimmer. He is well versed in self-defense, once broke an assailant's leg with a well-placed kick. Socially, he finds most people "are extra friendly, sometimes out of embarrassment." That, he feels, is their problem. He tries to help them over it.

Dunn is matter-of-fact about his dwarfism. "Remember," he says, "I was born this way. There was nothing to adjust to. My life has been just like everyone else's—finding out what you can do, what you like to do, and doing it." He scoffs at any hint that his high dive into life has been in any way courageous. "There wasn't really any other choice, except to be a vegetable. My reason for living is not that I'm brave, but that I like to be alive."

16 JAN 66 BOHEMIA MAGAZINE

LA TRISTE HISTORIA DE ROY SMITH

Roy Smith ha tenido una vida difícil y atormentada. Tiene 34 años y mide un metro treinta y cuatro centímetros de estatura. Hasta los 7 años fue un niño normal, pero a partir de esa edad sus piernas dejaron de crecer. Este fue un rudo golpe para el muchacho y creó en él un furioso complejo de rebeldía. Sus hermanos eran insultantemente altos, todas las personas que le rodeaban eran normales... Cuando llegó a los 18 años huyó de su casa y para vivir robó y estafó en varios lugares, y fue a dar con sus pequeños huesos a la cárcel. Logró rehacer su vida y llegó a ser campeón de lucha en Inglaterra, su patria, en la categoría de... enanos. Trabajó en circos y ferias. Volvió a cometer robos y estafas hasta que, hace tres años, conoció a Patricia Kay y con ella al amor. Ella era bailarina y tenía diez años menos y cuarenta y un centímetros más que él. Ambos trabajaban

en un espectáculo musical: "Blancanieves y los Siete Enanitos". Roy era uno de los siete, Pisilo. Salieron juntos. Se enamoraron. Decidieron casarse. Para montar su futuro hogar, Roy cedió de nuevo a la tentación de apropiarse de lo ajeno. Y robó, y fue sorprendido por la policía, y volvió a la cárcel. El juez fue clemente con él —fue más justo que juez— y le dejó en libertad provisional, pendiente de sentencia. Si volvía a ser detenido, se le aplicarían dos condenas.

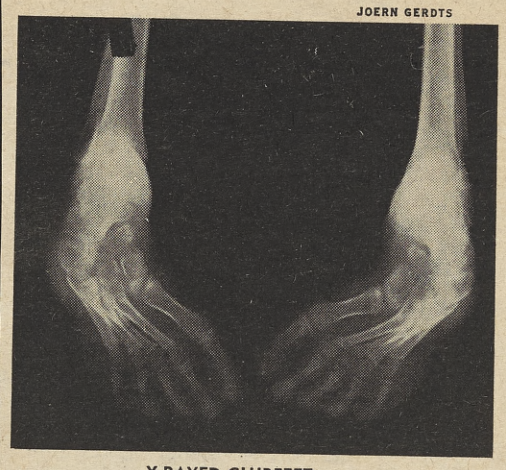
Roy y Pat se casaron hace tres años —foto de arriba. Decidieron tener un solo hijo, un niño. Pero fue una niña a la que llamaron Karen. Roy estaba loco de alegría: tenía una bella esposa, un trabajo decente —había vuelto a las luchas—, una hija normal y sana... Se olvidó hasta de su tamaño. Pero dentro de su alegría estaba agazapada la terrible duda. Karen ¿sería una muchacha normal o una enana? No tardó mucho en saberlo. La niña crecía, pero sus piernecillas no lo hacían al mismo ritmo que el resto del cuerpo. ¡Karen sería también una enana! Ahora Roy creyó volverse loco de dolor; él sabía lo que era ser enano en un mundo de gigantes incomprensivos y burlones. Se le agrió el carácter. Comenzó a beber y a drogarse... La bailarina no pudo soportar aquella vida, y un día, al volver a casa, Roy la encontró vacía. Pat se había ido con la niña a casa de su madre. Definitivamente. Todos los grandes sueños del enano se vinieron al suelo. Pero él encaró la situación con valentía y responsabilidad: Fue a ver a su esposa y le dijo que deseaba quedarse con Karen, que él estaba más capacitado que ella para cuidar a la niña, que ésta, cuando fuera mujer, sería más feliz con él —enano como ella— que con su madre, que pertenecía al mundo de las personas normales y altas. Pat lo comprendió así. No ha vuelto a ver a Roy desde que se divorció, y ha retornado a su carrera de bailarina de "night clubs".

Roy Smith ha vuelto a la lucha libre y espera llegar a ser campeón del mundo. Porque ahora pelea por algo más que por un campeonato: pelea por hacer feliz a su pequeña Karen.

—Soy la única persona que puede ayudarla a vivir en un mundo hostil y cruel de personas mayores que se burlan de los que no tienen su talla.

No hay en sus palabras ni rencor ni amargura. El enano Roy Smith está dispuesto a enfrentarse a la vida con un coraje de gigante.

JOERN GERDTS



X-RAYED CLUBFEET

In the good-risk range.

One of the most common inherited diseases in Britain, as in the U.S., is cystic fibrosis, which occurs once in about 2,500 births.* The pattern of inheritance is Mendelian recessive—the gene carrying the defect is weak and is overpowered by a corresponding normal gene, so that a child with one normal parent does not develop the disease. But if both parents carry the abnormal gene, and it is proved by the birth of one child with cystic fibrosis, there is a one-in-four risk that any subsequent child will also be afflicted. Other diseases in the bad-risk group: some forms of mental retardation, deafness, muscular dystrophy and hemophilia-like bleeding disorders. The counselor's advice to parents with one child suffering from these has to be: if you want more children, adopt them.

Rather Cheerful. Other abnormal conditions seen at birth are associated with defective genes, but the pattern is more complicated than Mendelian recessive. They produce hydrocephalus (water on the brain), *spina bifida* (failure of the spinal column to close), harelip and clubfoot. When a couple has had one child with one of these defects, the chance that a later child will have it is in the good-risk range, or about one in 25. "You may think that is rather serious," said Dr. Fraser Roberts, "but we think it is really something rather cheerful. You have to remember there is a one-in-33 chance that any pregnancy will end with some severe malformation or developmental error."

Most of the couples counseled at Guy's Hospital have heeded the geneticists' advice. Only a few in the poor-risk group have had more children. For them, the gloomy predictions were borne out, with severe defects in two cases out of eleven. But of 81 children born to couples in the good-risk group, only one inherited a major defect. That is a better showing than even "normal" couples can expect.

* Red-green color blindness, transmitted by the x (female) chromosome, is far more common, affecting 8% of men and slightly more than .5% of women, but Dr. Fraser Roberts considers this "a harmless physiological variation."

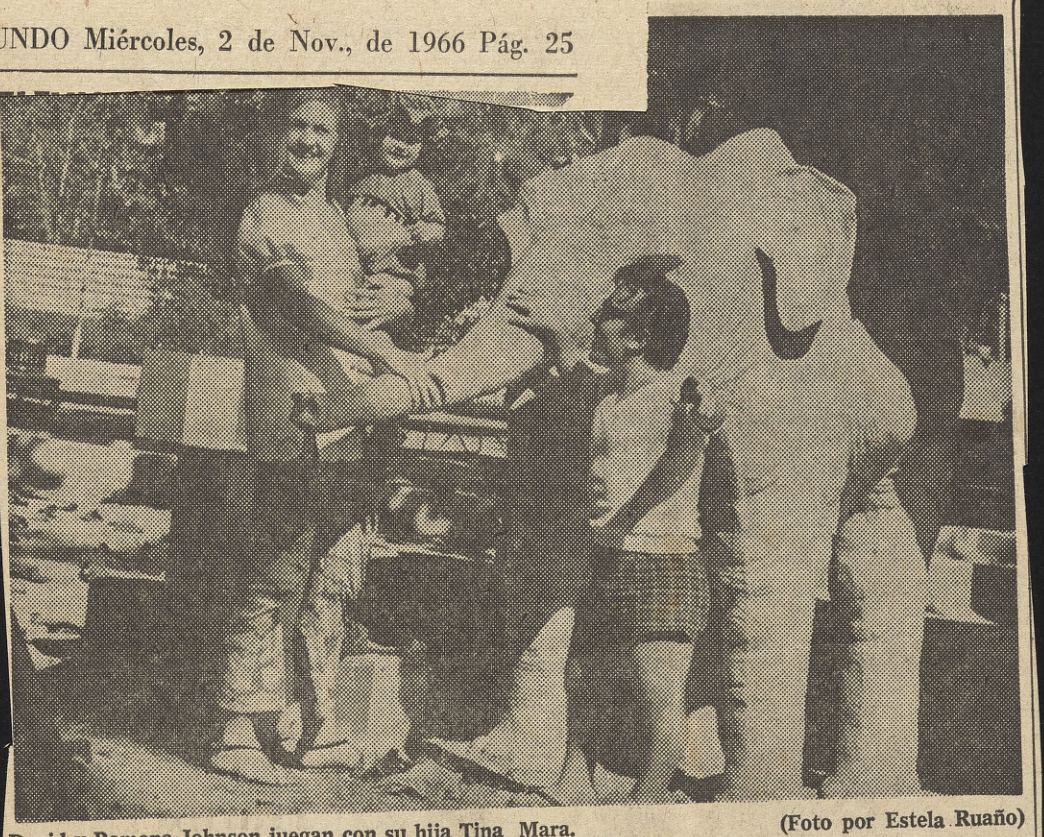
GENETICS

Chances of a Defective Child

Until recently, the parents of one defective child had only two courses to follow if they wanted another baby. One was to trust to luck, worry throughout the pregnancy, and blame themselves if a defective child was born. The other was to have no child. Now, by using charts of probabilities worked out by Dr. J. A. Fraser Roberts of London's famed Guy's Hospital, a geneticist can give parents an accurate appraisal of what their chances are of producing a second defective.

Though genetics is an arcanely intricate science, the risks of unfavorable inheritance fall sharply and neatly into two groups. Dr. Fraser Roberts labels them, simply, the bad and the good. In the bad-risk group, the chance that a couple's next child will be born defective is at least one in ten. In the good-risk group, it is no more than one in 25. For remote mathematical reasons, there are few in-between cases.

EL MUNDO Miércoles, 2 de Nov., de 1966 Pág. 25



David y Ramona Johnson juegan con su hija Tina Mara. (Foto por Estela Ruaño)

Estatura no le Impide A Matrimonio Ser Feliz

Por Estela Ruaño

Para David Johnson, de 4 pies 3 pulgadas, el único momento que está consciente de su estatura es cuando tiene que alcanzar algo que queda muy alto y es entonces cuando su esposa Ramona, de 5 pies 9½ pulgadas es especialmente útil.

David Johnson, quien se presenta en el espectáculo de Larry Steeele del hotel San Juan, nació en Manchester, Inglaterra. Hace trece años, cuando debutó como artista, todo estaba listo menos el nombre que usarían él y su compañero. El dueño del club solucionó el problema llamándolos los Hermanos Strong. "Desde entonces hemos trabajado bajo ese nombre", afirmó el señor Johnson.

El artista, que se presenta como cantante, bailarín y cómico, conoció a su esposa mientras ambos trabajaban en el Moulin Rouge de París. Ella actuaba como corista en el conocido cabaret y él se presentaba con su compañero en uno de los números. La compañía del Moulin Rouge tiene como norma irse de jira unos 3 meses al año y tanto Ramona como David Johnson iniciaron la tournee.

Trataron de casarse en 6 países distintos pero siempre se les hacía imposible ya que no podían cumplir con el requisito de residencia. Se casaron hace tres años y tienen una hija, Tina Mara, de 20 meses. "En casa tenemos la liga de las naciones porque yo nací en Inglaterra, mi esposa en Africa del Sur y la nena en Miami," afirmó David Johnson.

Los esposos Johnson se pasan la mayor parte del tiempo viajando. Ramona Johnson, quien abandonó su profesión al casarse, reveló que sólo hace 3 meses que acompaña a su esposo. Cuando tuvo la nena decidió establecer su residencia en Miami y allí esperar a su esposo. Tina Mara, sin embargo está encantada con la idea de viajar a tantos sitios. "Donde quiera que vamos ella se acostumbra", afirmó la señora Johnson.

David Johnson expresó que ya está cansado de viajar y piensa abandonar su carrera dentro de unos años. Sus planes son construir una casa, que ya Ramona diseñó, en la isla Freeport en las Bahamas y abrir una barra. "Me dedicaré a atender la barra, tener mi propio combo y el día será para nadar e ir de pesca", afirmó el artista. Su esposa comentó que le atraía la idea de vivir en su propia casa pero admitió que le iba a hacer falta viajar.

Ramona y David Johnson señalaron que nunca están consciente de la diferencia en estatura entre ambos. "Yo me doy cuenta cuando tengo que planchar un pantalón y entonces lo que hago es dar gracias porque son de sólo 24 pulgadas", declaró Ramona. Para ella no es problema alguno "si podemos hacer todo menos bailar cara con cara".

Lack Of Love Can Turn Child Into Dwarf

By HAL D. STEWARD

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (WNS) — Lack of mother love can turn an otherwise normal child into a dwarf, an expert on child development warned pediatricians here.

Dr. Henry K. Silver, Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, cautioned pediatricians to be on the watch for short stature, excessive appetite and a delay in bone age.

"Emotional and psychological deprivation appear to be the only cause of dwarfism in children exhibiting these three symptoms," Silver said in an interview.

"Doctors now cannot only diagnose such dwarfism, but can in large measure cure it, as well," he added.

The leading cause of emotional and psychological dwarfism, Silver said, is neglect and lack of parental love, particularly motherly love.

By dwarfism, Silver explained, he means short stature but not necessarily disproportionate stature.

"We don't know exactly when it starts, perhaps on Day One in the child's life, but certainly very early," he said. "Something happens to the relationship between the child and its parents generally with the mother because she is closest to the baby.

"Perhaps the infant is fussy, or spits up and is hard to hold. You seldom see it in 'only children' and often you find it in large families. In these cases, it often occurs in the first child of one sex when it has been preceded by several children of the opposite sex.

"Maybe the mother has had two girls, then a boy comes along. Perhaps she feel she can care for girls better, and the thing with the boy develops."

According to Silver, the baby will grow normally for the first year, but it will eat twice as much as a normal child. Then the growth rate drops while the eating continues.

"We see these children reach age 10 with a body the size of a 6-year-old," he said.

Such emotionally-deprived, short children may eat "voraciously" twice as much food as normal, even stealing food or eating garbage, and still fail to grow normally.

Relative bone age of a child can be readily determined by X-rays that reveal the degree of calcification that normally increases with maturity, declared the doctor. Children stunted by emotional causes, however, display less than normal calcification.

Discussing the findings of his research with pediatricians attending a seminar at the Children's Hospital here, Silver said that he and his associates had studied ten short children over several years. One of the tensubjects, a 7-year-old girl, was only as tall as a normal two-year-old when studied.

He found that although many of the children had not grown appreciably for several years, when the psychological factors causing the dwarfism were removed, the children spurted upward with a very rapid growth and appeared to be catching up to others of their own age.

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW
Sunday Magazine
March 31, 1968

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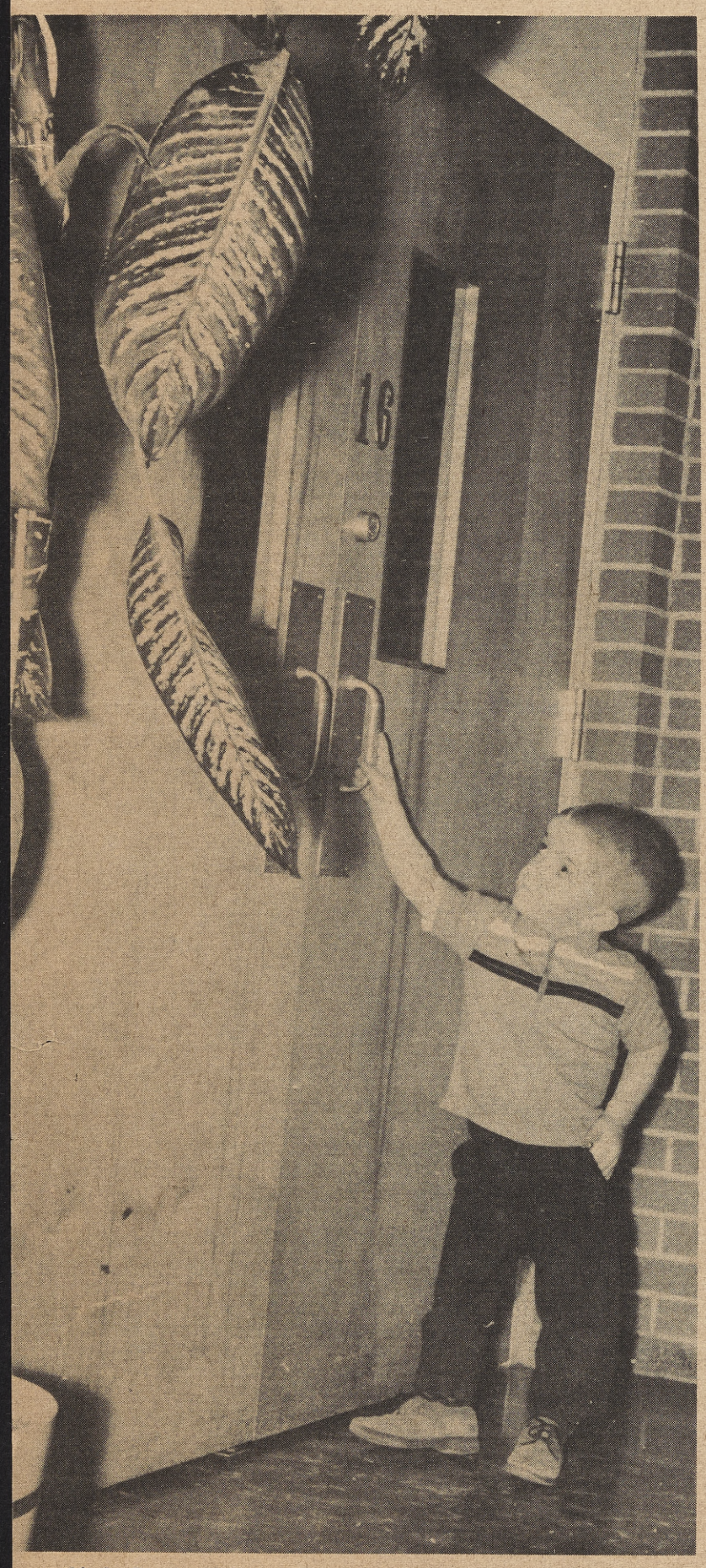
Little People View New Horizons

Those who are of lesser height are gaining a new perspective on their lives.



Little Doyle Harris, who is just three feet and one-half inch in height, finds it quite a reach to open the door at school. Doyle, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Harris, Pullman, Wash., is a second grader and a member of the "Little Littles" group in the Little People of America.

By GRACE STREET
Spokesman-Review Staff Writer

WHAT WOULD YOU DO if you stepped inside an automatic elevator, the doors closed behind you and you couldn't reach the button for the floor you wished or even the one for opening the door?

How would you manage to get a drink of water from a bubbling drinking fountain when you were thirsty, and it was at least six or so inches above your head?

How would you get a cup of coffee from a vending machine when the money slot was out of your reach, even if you stood on your tiptoes?

ANSWERS TO THESE problems and many others will be discussed by little people at the district meeting of the Little People of America in Goldendale, Wash., next Saturday and Sunday.

Little People, meaning those who are under four feet ten inches in height, will be gathering for fellowship and to discuss any problems they might encounter in the business of living, raising a family, buying a pair of shoes or altering some clothing.

To some who will attend, it will be the first time they ever have been in a group they can meet "eye to eye." To others it will mean a renewal of friendship with an acquaintance they met at another district session, or at a national convention, or perhaps through correspondence.

District 11, in an association of 12 districts over the United States, includes little people in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming and Alaska. The Goldendale meeting is one of two held each year in the district. The 12 districts meet each July in a national convention of Little People of America, which will be held this year in Baltimore, Md.

The meeting in Goldendale will be held, in part, in the home of the district director, George Joe Alexander, a school teacher in the Goldendale school system, and his wife Martha.

PRESENT MEMBERSHIP in District 11 is 66 persons of all ages, Alexander said, but there still are many who do not know of the organization.

The Little People of America, with the motto "Think Big," was organized at a meeting in Reno, Nev., in April 1957. Billy Barty, an actor, who is less than four feet tall, was organizer and first president.

Billy was appearing at the Riverside Hotel in Reno with the late Spike Jones, when it was suggested by a public relations director of the hotel that Billy get a group of little people together at the hotel. Billy liked the idea and, since Reno was known as the Biggest Little City in the World, what could be a more appropriate site?

The Riverside Hotel donated the rooms and gave all the little people who attended that first meeting half price rates on food. Through the aid of the public relations director, who was Nick Bourne, all news media were notified.

THE FIRST NATIONAL convention was held with 21 little people from nine states attending. By 1959, the mailing list included 200 members. Now there are approximately 1500 to 2000 members with a potential of several hundred more.

Billy Barty, who lives in Hollywood, was chairman of the last national convention, held in Los Angeles last July. A record number of 303 little people attended.

The purpose of the national organization is to aid in the development of personality and character and to promote the education of little people for acceptance in normal society.

Membership includes persons of all ages. Problems of parents with a child destined to be a "little person" are one of the main concerns of the organization, so there is an Auxiliary of Parents. Children who are expected to grow less than four feet ten inches in height are in a group called "Little Littles." There is also a teen-aged group.

THE ORGANIZATION also assists in the adoption of "little" children by little couples. A scholarship program is another current project.

Members have participated in studies on the problem of growth in the research of selected congenital malformations and hereditary conditions for the division of Medical Genetics in the Department of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Membership also includes several other categories. Chief among these is the achrondroplastic dwarf, those little persons who have a normal sized body but a larger head and very short arms and legs. This type of person has more of a problem with clothing, furniture and alterations, Alexander said.

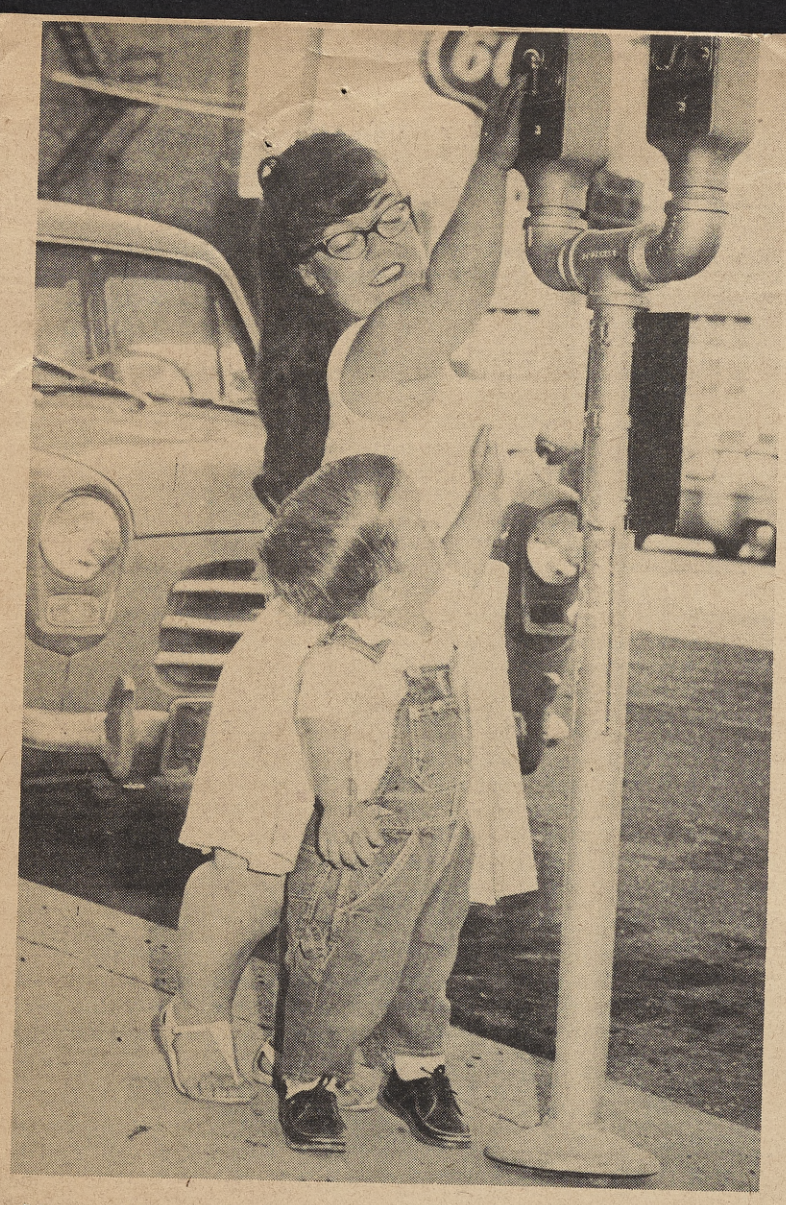
"Some who are just a little short with normal proportions may be able to purchase small sized clothing, but a dwarf usually can't find any to fit," Alexander added.

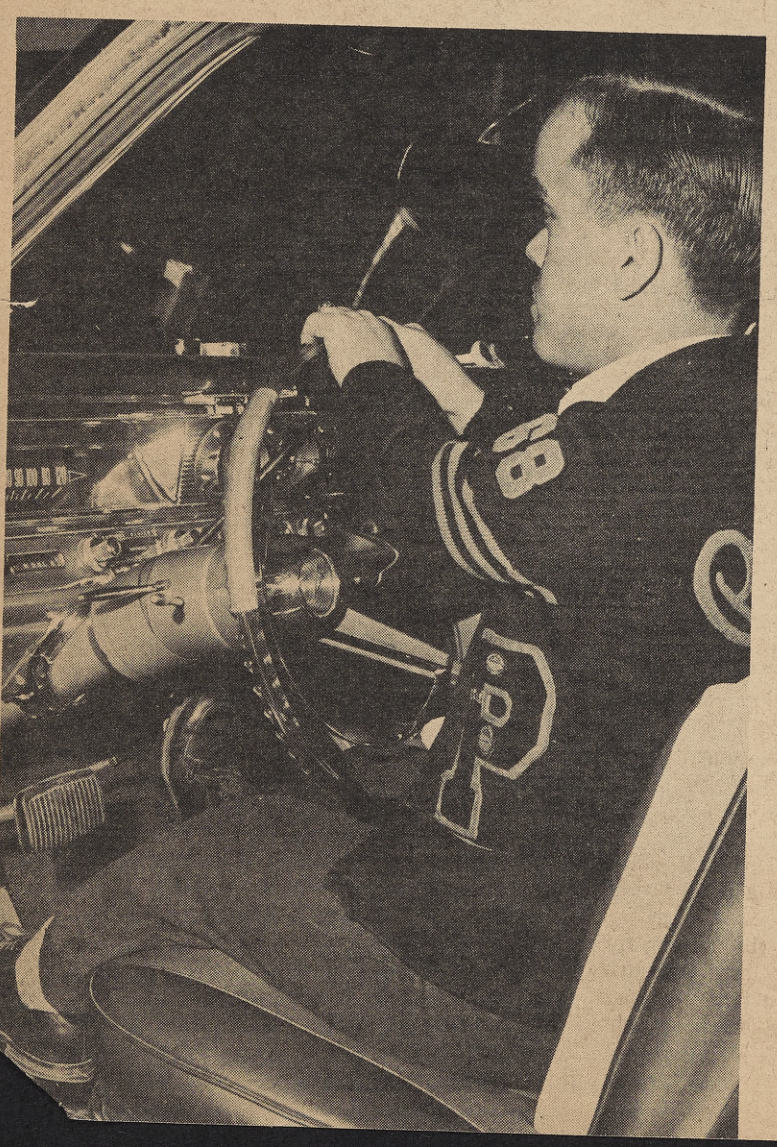
ONE OF THE PROJECTS of District 11, under the leadership of Alexander, is a member's handbook, containing a helpful hints section of ideas for any little person. The district will compile the booklet to include ideas from members throughout the nation.

Alexander, who is just over four feet tall, and his wife, Martha, a few inches shorter, recently moved into a new home. Before they moved they had a false floor, eight inches above the regular floor, installed in their kitchen. This brings the customary kitchen cabinets and sink height of 36 inches down to their level of 28 inches. In addition to this, they lowered the counter for the bathroom basin and all the clothes rods. They use stock units of laundry equipment which have front openings.

The couple has two children, a girl, six years old, and a boy, 2½. "Both are growing up to be normal sized," Alexander said. "So it's doubly important that we each teach discipline from the very beginning."

Some of the couples in the Little People organization have normal sized youngsters, who at ages 10 or 11 years, tower over their parents. Others have "little" children, much like themselves. One couple in Portland has a normal sized little boy, although their second





Above: Mrs. Judy Howard, Great Falls, Mont., and son Darin find the parking meters in downtown Great Falls a bit high. She is three feet 10 inches tall. (Great Falls Leader photo). Below: Robert Hubof, senior at Post Falls, Idaho, High School, drives the family auto which is equipped with special extensions.

youngster is destined to be a dwarf. As yet medical science doesn't know the answer to such a situation.

ALEXANDER HAS PLANNED a busy session in Goldendale. With the assistance of Mrs. Adeline Malecki, another member living in Goldendale, he has scheduled a parents auxiliary luncheon meeting Saturday at a local restaurant. "This will be the first regular meeting of the parents and should be a helpful one," he said.

Chapter organizational meetings will be held Saturday afternoon at the Alexander home, with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Vining, Kelso, Wash., and Miss Frieda Groeneveld, a Tacoma, Wash., kindergarten teacher, as leaders.

Chapters are being planned for Seattle-Tacoma, Portland, Spokane and other areas where eight or more little persons live.

All little people attending Saturday afternoon will take part in a bowling tournament, he said. "Regardless of our scores, we can have fun in participation," Alexander said.

A dinner meeting, followed by entertainment and a movie, will complete the day. A Sunday morning coffee will conclude the district session.

Miss Groeneveld, who is three feet 11 inches tall and a kindergarten teacher in the Franklin-Pierce School District, meets her students "eye to eye." She has been secretary of District 11 for several years and has edited a bi-monthly newsletter for the group. Prior to her kindergarten teaching, she taught first grade at Darrington, Wash.

Frieda drives a little auto equipped with extensions, and lives in a trailer southeast of Tacoma, complete with a false floor which puts all the windows and other equipment on her level. She attends each of the national conventions, frequently driving her auto all the way, she said.

After attending a national convention two years ago in Texas, she said, "for some of us it was a shock to see ourselves as others see us. But this feeling was replaced with a wonderful social feeling. We all have many friends among the tall people—but when we meet someone just like ourselves, it's different."

JUDY HOWARD, a member who lives in Great Falls, Mont., finds a high stool plays a big part in her life. She is three feet and 10 inches in height and the mother of a son five years old. She cooks and does her dishes from a stool in her Great Falls apartment. All her furnishings are regular size.

To get clothing out of a washing machine she uses a pair of tongs. If she reaches in head first, she feels she might fall in. She has a continuous s ring on her draw draperies. If she didn't, she said, she would pull one end, and find the other end up to the ceiling next time she wanted it.

Mrs. Howard, who has played rhythm guitar with dance bands, alters readymade clothing to fit her short arms and legs. She wears children's shoes but sometimes gets her heels from a specialized shoe firm. She and her son, Darin, who can expect the same problems as she as he grows older, carry a folding cup with them so they can get a drink of water at a fountain.

ROBERT W. HUBOF, a Post Falls, Idaho, high school senior and son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hubof, Post Falls, is a teen-aged member and teen chairman for District 11. He has plans to attend college, beginning at North Idaho Junior College in Coeur d'Alene, and then on to the University of Idaho, majoring perhaps in accounting.

For the past two summers, Bob has helped with his school expenses by mowing lawns around the Post Falls area. The first year he purchased his own "riding" mower equipped with pedal extensions. He also can drive the family auto which is equipped with a set of extensions manufactured by Bob East in his machine shop in Oakland, Calif. These extensions allow a taller person to drive without their removal. East, who is also a little person, has perfected a number of such extensions.

Bob also plays cornet in the Post Falls High School marching band and has marched with the music group in Spokane's Lilac Parade.

ONE OF THE Little Littles in District 11 is Doyle Harris, who is eight years old and attends second grade in Jefferson School in Pullman, Wash. He stands 36½ inches tall and weighs in at 36 pounds.

Doyle has a desire to play basketball. So his dad, Edward E. Harris, is in the process of making him an adjustable basket. The basket will remain at "low altitude" until Doyle has perfected his shooting, then gradually will be raised to normal height. The ball is too heavy, but he refuses to use a lighter one. He wants to compete "like the others."

He also is learning to play the piano with extensions on the instrument's pedals. His parents have provided little stools for him to use at the school drinking fountains. But Doyle finds it easier and faster to shinny up the fountain to get a drink.

Little people may be able to live with their home environment without attention, but problems multiply away from home.

They cannot walk down the street in a strange place without being noticed by the curious. Hotel rooms and motels are not convenient for the little person when he finds he sees only the top of his head in the only mirror in the room.

The electric shaver outlet is out of reach and he will have to forego a shower, because faucet handles and the shower nozzle are no less than five and one half feet from the floor.

THESE ARE JUST a few problems for which the organization's members have found the answers.

"Humor helps in many instances," Miss Groeneveld said, "even to asking someone in a grocery store to hand you a package of cereal from a shelf, explaining that you are short on one end."

Little people have found it pays to carry a long pencil or pen in a pocket for elevator buttons and a folding drinking cup for high fountains. As for vending machines with high slots, you either carry a pincer type of rig in your pocket for the money slot or you do without the coffee—unless some kind person is nearby.

(The end.)

1971

SCIENCE

Code That Controls Growth

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PROLINE
THREONINE
ISOLEUCINE
PROLINE
LEUCINE
SERINE
ARGININE
LEUCINE
PHENYLALANINE
ASPARTIC ACID
ASPARAGINE
ALANINE
METHIONINE
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ISOLEUCINE
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SERINE
LEUCINE
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Tiny gland is the 'place of the soul'

The pituitary gland, source of the growth hormone, nestles directly under the brain in a tiny cradle of bone, and was known among the ancients as "the abiding place of the soul." Though they had no knowledge of endocrinology, they were astonishingly close to the truth. For the pituitary, small as it is, is a most marvelous and intricate factory whose products directly or indirectly govern almost the whole life, growth and reproductive process.

Taking instructions from the brain to which it is connected by a tiny stalk, the pituitary transmits them through the body in the form of chemical messengers known as hormones. The pituitary, moreover, normally serves as a kind of computer which monitors the work of these hormones, manufacturing more when there is a need and less when there is not. The hormones not only exert a direct influence of their own but also trigger the production of other vital hormones elsewhere in the body. The pituitary itself is the source of seven known hormonal secretions, all produced in the front part of the gland, and all but one of them—TSH—first isolated by Dr. Li and his team at California's Hormone Research Laboratory.

Lipotropin, which Dr. Li isolated in 1964, liberates stored body fat into the bloodstream. Thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) spurs the growth of the thyroid gland, which in turn regulates the rate of body metabolism. Adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) triggers the production of possibly as many as 60 different hormones in the adrenal cortex. ACTH also helps the kidneys regulate the body's salt and water content and prevents inflammation of the joints—hence its use in arthritis treatment.

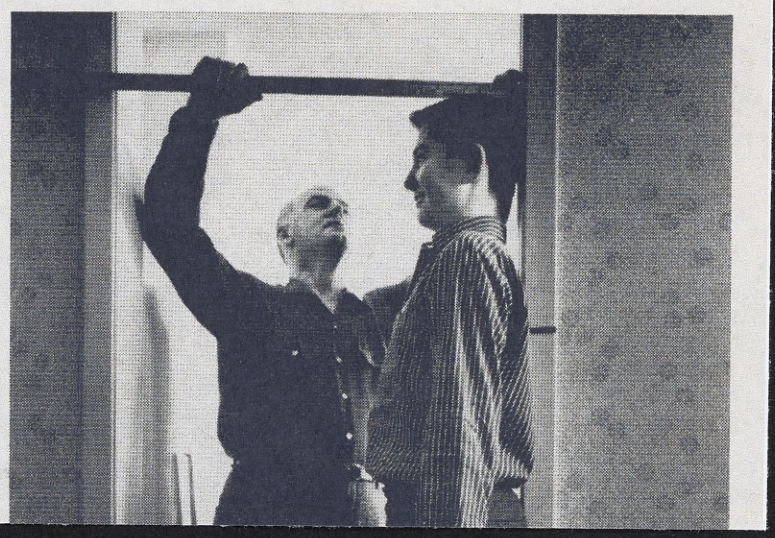
The three other pituitary hormones, called the gonadotropins, control sex and reproduction. Deficiencies can cause infertility—and injections of the hormones in the form of "fertility drugs" last year produced a spectacular crop of quintuplets and quadruplets (LIFE, Aug. 13, 1965).

Of all the pituitary products yet analyzed, the growth hormone has the most complex chemical code—and perhaps the most complicated function. In addition to its regulating function in growth, scientists suspect it may have something to do with such diverse phenomena as mammary gland development, tissue replacement and even cancer.

Jars at the Tufts New England Medical Center, which treats dwarfed children, contain 30,000 pituitary glands. One gland will yield a week's dosage of HGH.

How HGH made one dwarf tall

One of the most striking cases of growth stimulated by injections of HGH is shown in these pictures of Frank Hooey. Above, prior to the treatment, Frank—then 15 and only 4′3″ tall—stood next to a six-foot sergeant at Royal Canadian Air Force camp. Below, at 23, Frank stands in the kitchen doorway while his father records his new height—5′6½″.



Scientists Synthesize Growth Hormones

By WALTER SULLIVAN
New York Times News Service

NEW YORK — The human body has been likened, in the complexity of its functions, to a great city: dependent for survival on regulated imput of food, water and energy, on adequate discharge of its liquid and solid wastes, on a variety of internal transport systems and, above all, on smooth and efficient coordination and control of all these functions.

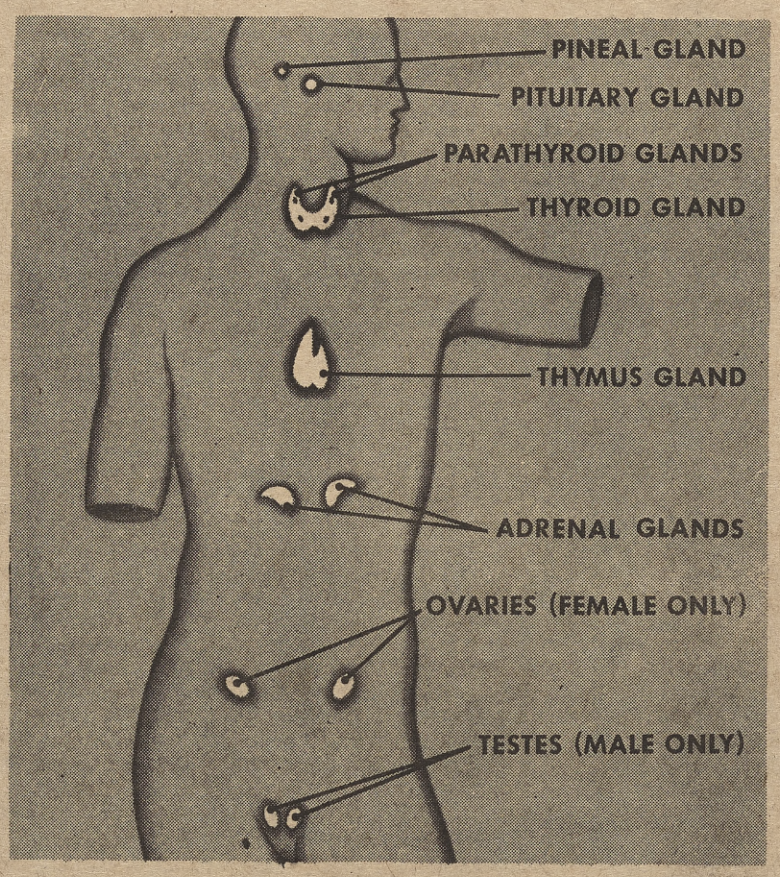
The control systems of the body — the nervous system — are virtually all electrical and electronic, like the traffic lights, telephones and computers of the city. But the body also has another system of control that is chemical in natural, all pervasive and vital to its function — the production of hormones by a variety of organs and glands.

Last week, a team of California scientists announced that for the first time the so-called human growth hormone (HGH) had been synthesized. It is the largest molecule ever assembled in a laboratory — but beyond that fact, the achievement had special significance. HGH affects chemical reactions throughout the body, and it is expected that the synthetic version will make possible the treatment of various ailments and may even contribute to improve understanding and treatment of certain forms of cancer.

Hormones are carried through the body by the bloodstream, promoting a variety of functions by means of chemical interventions that are still not fully understood. Their effect is so powerful, however, that a tiny fraction of a drop, spread through the entire body, can cause uterine bleeding or set the heart to pounding. It can even make a woman temporarily sterile — the effect exploited in contraceptive pills.

The hormone system provides for "feedback" control in that, when a gland becomes aware of an excess of its particular hormone in the blood (for example, after the hormone has been administered as a drug), it cuts off its own production. In this way the body maintains a proper hormonal balance.

A central role in the hormonal system is played by the pea-sized pituitary gland, set in a bone cavity under the brain. It is known as the "master gland" because its hormones control the release of hormones



by other glands in various parts of the body. Thus, when the brain experiences fear, a message to the pituitary releases ACTH (adrenocorticotrophic Hormone) into the bloodstream. When the adrenal glands, above each kidney, pick up this "chemical alarm," they release their hormone, Epinephrine (adrenalin) and epinephrine in turn stimulates the heart, enabling the body to perform superhuman feats to meet the emergency.

The 10 hormones generated by the front part of the pituitary follow similar sequences in the control of most phases of sexual activity. For some 30 years a Chinese-born researcher, Dr. Choh Hao Li, who heads the hormone research laboratory of the University of California in San Francisco, has been seeking to decipher the structure of these substances and make them artificially.

In 1955 he and his coworkers determined the structure of ACTH, and they were then able to lay the basis for mass production of similar hormones by the drug industry. Since then, other hormones have been synthesized in various laboratories, including another from the front part of the pituitary, and last week Li reported the synthesis of the human growth hormone, HGH.

Unlike the other pituitary hormones, this one does not act only on specific "target" organs. Not only does it stimulate maternal milk production and controls reprodictive hormones in both sexes, but tests of HGH in animals have shown that it promotes the healing of wounds and broken bones, reduces obesity and seems to play an essential role in at least some forms of cancer.

The role of growth hormone in cancer, Li said, Swedish surgeons began removing pituitaries from women with breast cancer, leading to some remissions. In rats whose pituitaries have been removed, injection of cancer-inducing substances and viruses has no effect, but if the animals are then given growth hormone, cancer develops even though the hormone by itself does not initiate cancerious growth.

Artificial Synthesis of Human Growth Hormone Is 'Milestone'

Picture on Page 1

By BILL STOCKTON
(AP Science Writer)

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A biochemist announced Wednesday the first artificial synthesis of human growth hormone, a research milestone in learning the language of the chemical messages that govern the body's functions.

The achievement by the Hormone Research Laboratory at the University of California at San Francisco holds promise for elimination of most forms of dwarfism and gives medical researchers a powerful new tool to probe cancer and the causes of several diseases.

The announcement was made by Dr. C. H. Li, professor of biochemistry, and Dr. Philip R. Lee, University of California at San Francisco chancellor. Li has been director of the hormone laboratory since its formation in 1950.

"This is a breakthrough potentially of great significance to men, women and children with or without disease," Lee said.

Human growth hormones are secreted by the pituitary gland, about the size of a pea at the base of the brain. It is known as the "master gland" because it secretes more than a dozen chemicals that regulate secretion of still other chemicals by other glands. The chemicals, called hormones, are messengers which work with the body's nervous system to direct body functions.

Experiments with both human and animal growth hormones on animals show that besides promoting growth, the hormone also hastens the healing of wounds, can lower the cholesterol levels in the blood, enhance resistance to infection and improve the performance of sex hormones.

Times Pacayune
1/7/71

human growth ink

Vol. 5, No. 1 February, 1971

On the Trail 32 Years

The Medical 'Breakthrough' That Really Is: Synthetic Hormones

FROM SAN FRANCISCO

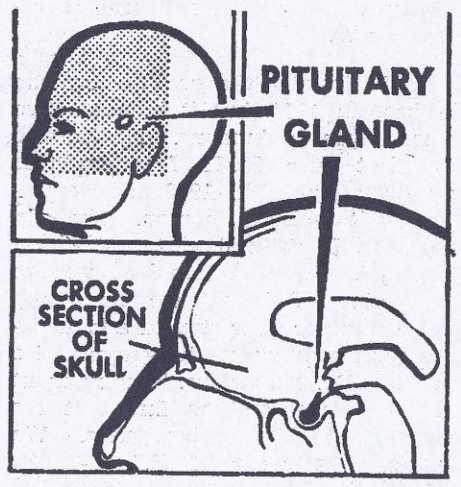
Biochemist Choh Hao Li is the very embodiment of patience. His friends told him to quit, that it couldn't be done, that he was crazy to keep trying. Dr. Li doggedly persisted, working seven days a week for 32 years, and at last he won—big. Last week he announced that he and his University of California co-workers have produced artificially the human growth hormone, the largest and most complex molecule ever synthesized by man.

"This is the most impressive achievement in synthetic chemistry that I am aware of," says Dr. Sidney Farber, president of the Children's Cancer Research Foundation in Boston. Dr. Farber lent Dr. Li the $30,000 machine on which the synthesis was done. "It's like the accomplishment of the first really great skyscraper, or building a bridge of such size as has never been built before or thought possible to build."

Staff writers John Peterson in San Francisco and Jim Hampton in Washington, D.C., reported this story, which Mr. Hampton wrote.

The human growth hormone (HGH) is secreted by the pituitary, a pea-size gland attached to the base of the brain by a tiny stalk. HGH controls body growth, acting on all the body's cells. A severe deficiency causes dwarfism; severe excess causes acromegaly, a condition of the bones of the face, hands, and feet.

But HGH evidently does much more too. Experiments on animals indicate that it also stimulates healing of



wounds and burns, speeds the knitting of broken bones, makes the sex hormones more plentiful and powerful, increases tht body's resistance to infection, and wards off arteriosclerosis by lowering the blood's cholestrol.

Since HGH controls cellular growth, and since cancer is cellular growth gone wild, HGH may one day provide an anti-growth substance to choke off cancer cells. Dr. Farber, the 1968-69 president of the American Cancer Society, says that "the relationship to cancer research will be a very important one."

The society has supported Dr. Li's work for 20 years, but Dr. Farber cautions that "it's much too early to make any statement at all" on HGH's anticancer potential. "Now that he's synthesized HGH," Dr. Farber adds, "we should be able to move very much more quickly to find out whether there is anything important (in it) to control cancer or cancer growth."

Dr. Philip R. Lee, chancellor of the University of California's Medical Center here and former top physician with the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, called Dr. Li's accomplishment one of the most significant breakthroughs in the history of basic research. The term "breakthrough" has been misapplied to some gee-whiz research in recent years, but this time it is deserved.

Heavyweight-Molecule Champion

"It's extremely important," says Dr. Robert Bruce Merrifield, the biochemist from New York City's Rockefeller University whom Dr. Li has now displaced as heavyweight-molecule champion. Dr. Merrifield synthesized ribonuclease, an enzyme appearing in many body tissues, two years ago. The ribonuclease molecule is a string of 124 amino acids hooked one to another. It was the most complex molecule anybody had created until Dr. Li topped it.

HGH is much heavier and more complex. The HGH molecule is a strand of 188 pieces, each piece being a fragment of one of 20 different amino acids (organic compounds from which the body produces protein). Dr. Merrifield designed the machine on which he himself synthesized ribonuclease. Dr. Farber lent Dr. Li, who couldn't afford his own, a model of this same machine to use in making HGH.

The synthesizing process is almost too tedious to be done by hand. To make HGH, Dr. Li and Dr. Donald Yamashiro, his chief associate, had to build the amino-acid chain link by link until they had strung together

188 links. It took six months with the machine, which starts and stops the required reactions automatically. It would have taken much longer by hand.

Dr. Li "grew" the chain on tiny polyethylene beads, using Dr. Merrifield's method. The beads are so small—only 50 microns, or about two-thousandths of an inch in diameter—that they resemble powder. But they're insoluble, so they don't react with the chemicals used, and they are large enough to remain behind when one chemical is drained off through an ultrafine filter and the next chemical is added.

Even with the machine, the synthesis required immense patience. To make the HGH molecule, Dr. Li had to "'cement" each of the 188 amino-acid links in place in a precise sequence. This meant devising a chemical reaction that would cement each link's near end to the growing chain while blocking any undesired chemical reaction in the link's far or growing end. Then the blocking action had to be neutralized so that the next link could be added, cementing one end while blocking off the other.

Dr. Li says his 32-year quest has been anything but dull. "Too many scientists are like fishermen, attempting to hook only the big one. But when you do research, it stretches out before you like a war. You have to plan your experiments, manipulate your knowledge and forces, and plot your strategy.

"We aren't fishermen here. We have been on the trail of this synthesis for years. Such a big molecule had never been synthesized before, and many scientists who are my close friends told me I'm crazy to work on the growth hormone. But I didn't get discouraged. A man cannot be afraid; he must have great courage even with the great frustrations, disappointments, and jealousies."

Dr. Li was born in Canton, China, of uneducated parents who saw all 11 of their children through college. He arrived at Berkeley, Calif., in 1933, enroute to graduate study at the University of Michigan. A sister and brother, students at Berkeley, persuaded him to stay there.

Admitted Provisionally

He barely got into school because the graduate dean had never heard of young Li's Nanking college. Admitted provisionally, he was given an office in a basement and put to work investigating hormones. He received his Ph.D. degree in 1938, joined the Cal faculty then, and has been studying hormones ever since.

Dr. Li is now director of Cal's Hormone Research Laboratory, which he has headed since it was established in 1950. Now 57 years old, he wears his black hair combed straight back and paces ceaselessly back and forth in one of his two offices—on the 10th floor, well above the basement—as he talks.

"I am a slave driver who gets along well with his people," he says matter-of-factly. "I'm always working, thinking. I demand that the men working in my laboratory have an intense interest. I've had to tell many of them to leave over the years."

He also has a simple philosophy about his work. "It takes great luck to successfully synthesize so big a molecule. But I'm working all the time, so the luck will come to me." He has yielded to his wife's demands, however, and no longer works seven-day weeks.

Dr. Li isolated the growth hormone in beef in 1944, but it is not active when given to humans. He isolated the first pure HGH from cadaver pituitary glands in 1956 and demonstrated its activity in man. Then, in 1966, Dr. Li determined the structure of HGH. All that remained was to synthesize HGH. "You never really know whether your structure is accurate until you successfully synthesize it," says Dr. Yamashiro. "The moment of truth is when you find that the synthesis is biologically active. We learned that in early 1970."

The artificial HGH's activity has been demonstrated only in animals so far, but Dr. Li is confident that it will be active in man. He has produced only a minuscule amount of HGH: 11.6 milligrams (there are 28,350 milligrams to one ounce). And the artificial hormone is only one-tenth as active as is natural HGH. Dr. Merrifield notes, however, that his ribonuclease wasn't pure at first, and predicts that Dr. Li will be able to increase HGH's purity and activity without undue difficulty.

Like all hormones, HGH is extremely potent. The average person's pituitary gland contains only 3 to 5 milligrams of HGH. The Federally financed National Pituitary Agency in Baltimore collects 75,000 cadaver pituitaries a year, paying doctors $2 per gland to mail them in. About 15,000 glands—enough to yield only 3 ounces of HGH—go to researchers like Dr. Li. The other 60,000 yield the 8 to 13 ounces available for medical use.

Dr. Salvatore Raiti, director of the pituitary agency, says 10,000 American children suffer from hypopituitarism, an HGH deficency resulting in dwarfism. But only 599 children are getting the medicine, because there isn't enough. Each patient needs about 1 milligram a day, and the treatment must be continued for several years.

This shortage should be remedied within a few years. Dr. Li, Dra Raiti, and others are confident that the pharmaceutical industry will develop methods of mass-producing HGH now that Dr. Li has synthesized it. Ready availability should in turn spark an intensified search for proof that HGH does—or does not—work the medical wonders that are expected of it.

THE NATIONAL OBSERVER
Monday, January 11, 1971

The Times-Pica

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ational News and WIREPHOTO.

NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 7, 1971

Scientist Who Synthesized Growth Hormone

(Story in Sec. 1, Page 18.)

—AP WIREPHOTO.

POINTING to some of the experimental equipment in his lab at the University of California in San Francisco is Dr. C. H. Li, who announced the first artificial synthesis of the human growth hormone. His assistant, Dr. D. Yamashiro, looks on.

Wall Street Journal
Thursday January 7, 1971

Human Growth Hormone Is Synthesized For First Time by California Scientists

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL *Staff Reporter*

SAN FRANCISCO—The Hormone Research Laboratory at the University of California, San Francisco, announced that two of its scientists have synthesized for the first time the pituitary human growth hormone, or HGH.

The synthesis, one of the most complex achievements in protein chemistry, opens the way to a host of basic studies of human growth and possibly improved treatment of cancer, heart disease, infections and other maladies, scientists here indicated.

The synthesis was made by C. H. Li, director of the laboratory, who first isolated and purified HGH in 1956, and an assistant research biochemist, Donald H. Yamashiro.

Biochemist Li told a crowded news conference on the campus that the synthesized hormone currently amounts to only a few milligrams in his laboratory. But he added, "I believe once you show it can be done, it will be developed (through) large-scale production" in drug-industry laboratories.

Among the first applications, he indicated, would be in treatment of the 7,000 or more U.S. children born each year with deficient amounts of HGH, resulting in dwarfism. Some of them are treated successfully with a natural growth hormone obtained from cadavers, but this method has proven inadequate to supply the amounts needed, doctors indicated here. When asked whether pituitary dwarfism might soon disappear as a result of successful synthesis, Mr. Li said "yes."

Chancellor Hails "Breakthrough"

Philip R. Lee, chancellor of the San Francisco campus of the university, told newsmen that HGH synthesis was a "contribution of great significance" and "perhaps one of the most important breakthroughs" to come from the famed hormone laboratory here. Asked whether the research might bring a Nobel Prize to Mr. Li and his co-worker, he replied, "The Nobel Prize committee has to answer that question."

The pea-sized pituitary gland, located just below the brain, is called the body's master gland because its 10 known hormones control so many vital body functions, ranging from growth to reproduction and metabolism.

Mr. Li and others at the laboratory previously isolated and purified eight of the 10 hormones and determined the structure of seven, including HGH. But HGH synthesis required four more years after its structure was determined, "and we lost sleep very often," Mr. Li reported. The hormone is a protein containing 188 amino acids, each in a definite sequence like the words in a sentence. By contrast, previous breakthroughs in protein synthesis included that of ACTH, another pituitary hormone, which contains only 39 amino acid "words" and insulin, which contains 51.

The scientist said synthetic HGH hasn't been tested yet in humans but its chemical activity has been verified by other means. He added that the first sample is only about 10% as active in promoting growth as the natural hormone, indicating that some impurities crept into the material.

The university announcement said, "Using the new synthetic H, the answers may . . . be found as to why we grow to a certain height and then stop; what goes wrong with those who grow abnormally short or tall; why certain cells become runaway cancer cells; why some people maintain a normal weight and others are abnormally thin or fat; and many other heretofore unsolved questions."

It also noted that Mr. Li's research disclosed that HGH stimulates mild secretion by the mammary glands and promotes the activity of both male and female sex hormones.

HGH May Affect Cholesterol

Mr. Li said animal studies indicate HGH may be far more important than previously suspected. He said it appears to play a role in lowering blood cholesterol, for example. Many studies have shown that the risk of heart attacks is far greater among men who have a high level of blood cholesterol, a fatty substance produced by the body and also linked to certain dietary fats such as butter. Thus, he suggested that synthetic HGH may help scientists understand the mechanisms by which cholesterol can be controlled.

The lab director also noted that, in animal studies, injection of HGH enhanced resistance to infection, promoted wound healing and helped repair bone fractures.

In animals with cancer, the growth hormone stimulates the spread of the disease, Mr. Li noted. The synthesizing of HGH opens the way to constructing a synthetic molecule that is "antagonistic" to growth and which "might be anticancer" in effect, he said.

Mr. Li was born in Canton, China, in 1913 and studied at the University of Nanking. In 1935 he came to Berkeley, where he obtained his Ph.D. He has remained on the University of California faculty since then. He still speaks in heavily accented English. In his spare time, he plays tennis, reads and catalogs stamps and coins.

In 1955, he and his co-workers made scientific history by isolating and purifying Adrenocorticotropin, known as ACTH, a key hormone that regulates salt and water retention in the body and helps produce 60 different hormones. The discovery led to successful synthesis and production of ACTH for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and other diseases.

Connective Tissue Studies Seen Clue to Many Inherited Diseases

Special to Pediatric Herald

BALTIMORE — New light may be thrown on a large number of inherited diseases in the newborn by the study of genetic metabolic defects in connective tissue.

This was suggested by Dr. Albert Dorfman, Professor of Pediatrics, University of Chicago, and Director of La-Rabida Institute, at a seminar for science writers sponsored here by The National Foundation in cooperation with The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions.

Dr. Dorfman

New information about such diseases of cartilage and bone as the chondrodysplasias and the chondrodystrophys should come out of the investigation of the metabolism and chemistry of the acid mucopolysaccharide molecules and other connective components, Dr. Dorfman said.

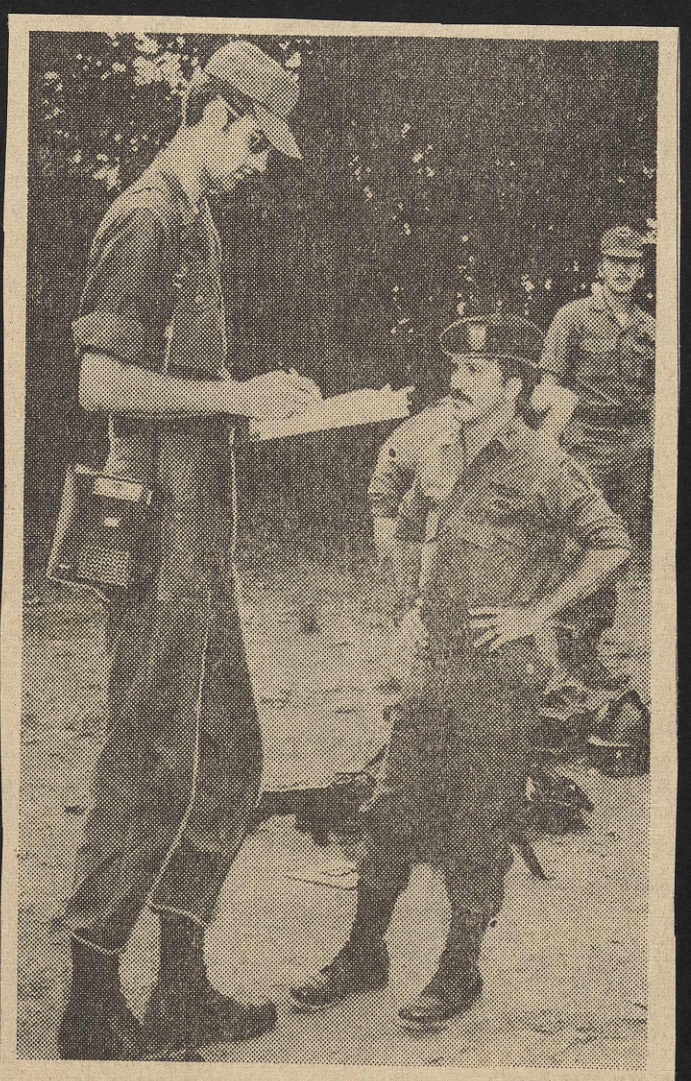
Hurler Syndrome

The accumulation and excretion of excessive amounts of two of these molecules, chondrodin sulfate B and heparin monosulfate, is present in cases of Hurler syndrome (gargoylism), and is an example of genetic defect in connective tissue.

The identification of large amounts of these molecules in the urine, he said, facilitates a speedy diagnosis of this disease and enables a degree of differentiation in diagnosis not possible before. About a dozen cases of gargoylism are seen in a year in the Chicago area.

The enzymatic defect responsible in Hurler syndrome has not been identified, but Dr. Dorfman suggested it is most likely due to a single genetic defect.

He described the key role in connective tissue played by the acid mucopolysaccharide molecules, at least eight of which are now known to be distributed in different concentrations and combinations in various tissues. They figure prominently in control of water and salt content, resistance to passage of foreign substances, and blood coagulation.



—AP WIREPHOTO.

DURING MILITARY ENCAMPMENT in Indiantown Gap, Pa., Pfc. John P. Nipps, 23, Columbus, Ohio, interviewed Army Green Beret Capt. Richard J. Flaherty, 26, Stanford, Conn. Nipps, 6 feet, 8 inches, is among the Army's tallest while Flaherty, 4 feet, 9 inches had to get special permission, because of his height, to become an officer and a member of the Special Forces.

THE TIMES-PICAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS, LA., TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 18, 19?

Maud O'Bryan The Want Ad Report

MIDGET MAGICIAN A HIT AT KID PARTIES

Joseph M. White claims to be the smallest professional magician in the United States —he is only 4 feet 4 inches tall—and is billed as Joe, the Midget Magician.

"For 18 years I traveled for a meat packing company as their goodwill representative, performing for schools and supermarkets," White said at 362-8813, where he is employed to operate a midget one-man submarine for Ocean Optics, a subsidiary of Brown & Root, Inc. "I retain my professional magician status by performing at children's parties, grand openings for stores, other events in the evenings and weekends. I live in the French Quarter but work in Belle Chasse. Some magazines have written that I am the smallest professional magician in the world and the claim has never been questioned, but I am positive I'm the smallest in this country."

* * *

Maud O'E Advertising R

GREAT DANES PLAN DAY SUNDAY IN CITY PARK

All pure bred Great Danes from three-month-old puppies up are welcome in the American Kennel Club Sanction Match of Great Dane Club of Louisiana, Inc., announces I. Bernard Salomon.

Registrations begin at the peristyle in City Park Sunday at 10 a.m. until noon. At 12:30 p.m. William Roland, long-time breeder of Great Danes in Mobile, Ala., will start judging.

Prizes and trophies for first place winners and ribbons from first to fourth place in each class will be awarded, Salomon said.

Shirley Cannizzaro, match chairman, 737-7499, and Marge Van Veen, president, 368-0380, suggest that you "bring your puppy out and show him off."

* * *

LITTLE PEOPLE'S PICNIC— THOSE UNDER 4 FEET 8

Little People, those no taller than 4 feet 8 inches, will have their spring picnic Saturday from 9 a.m. at City Park near Kiddie Land, by Shelter 1 and 2, announce Dorothy Gil, Carol Cracco, Diann Lo Cicero, Debra Villarrubia, Debra Dimm.

Everyone will bring his own lunch. If bad weather prevails, Little People will meet Sunday at 3 p.m. in First National Bank of Commerce meeting room, 3201 S. Carrollton ave.

The local group of Little People calls itself Louisiana L'il Highs and is petitioning Little People of America for national membership. There will be a national convention of people under 4 feet 8 in Miami in July which will probably result in LLH being recognized as a chapter of LPA.

* * *

1973

"PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS ON PROBLEMS OF SHORT STATURE"

David Hornstein, Attorney at Law

(A letter written to a 16 year old girl of severe short stature.)

Dear C :

I'm glad Dr. G sent me a copy of the letter you wrote to the National Pituitary Agency and I'm pleased that he asked me to write to you.

To condense my experiences over a span of more than sixty-five years into a few pages isn't easy. Up until I spoke to the Human Growth Meeting last year I had never talked in public about myself. This letter will be the first time I have ever written anything about myself. I will try to say enough to give you an honest message.

First, I don't think there is any reason for me to be sorry for you. I want to congratulate you. God has blessed you in many ways. You can see. You can hear. You can smell. You can run. You can laugh and you can cry. You can think and you can come close to making the kind of life you want. A few weeks ago I saw a true-life TV program about the seventeen year old blind daughter of the "make-up" lady on the Hugh Downs Today Show. She actually bubbled with enthusiasm and said the only thing she needed to make her completely happy was to be able to get up and go out without help. She is learning to walk the streets of New York alone with a cane. On her first day out she fell down a stairway leading into a basement. She said she got up and was thrilled to find that she hadn't broken any bones. When I think of people like her I get down on my knees and thank God for my blessings.

What are my blessings? I can do all the things that you and your brothers and sisters can do. I'm not blind. I'm not deaf. I don't have cancer. But, I do have some things that I could live without.

I am 4'7" tall, (if you can call that tall). My lack of height is from the waist up. I sit so low that I need a booster seat when I sit at a table. When I eat out I ask the waiter to bring me a telephone book to sit on (I'm glad I live in a big city where the telephone book is thick.) I don't whisper about needing the book and I don't try to hide it, when it comes. You know why C? Well everybody has got something wrong with him or her. Nobody's perfect. Some of these deficiencies show plainly (like being short) and some of them don't. When anybody sees

me or sees you for the first time they right away see and know all that's wrong with us. After they get to know us better, everything else about us can and should show up as an improvement over that first impression. On the other hand people with hidden defects may look real good to begin with. Then when we get to know them better we find they have plenty wrong with them and then our first impressions of them take a nose dive. I like our way better.

If being short were not enough I also have an out-sized hooked nose. It's there and I wouldn't change it if I could.

So what do I do? I realize that everybody can't be tall, dark and handsome. I try to make up for what I don't have with what I do have. I go to the trouble to be extra courteous. To be unselfish. To be understanding and sensitive to the desires and to the whims of my family and my friends and my associates. I try to be cheerful and humorous and outgoing. And above everything else, I maintain a studied effort to make everybody comfortable in my company. I think I do this at the outset by showing very plainly that I am not sensitive about my looks. I find that I am accepted as just another one of the crowd. No need for sly looks or attempts to hide the fact that they may be surprised to see one so short. I have done a lot of public speaking. Many times the mike takes a lot of adjusting before I can get to it. I often start off by saying "the only reason I'm here tonight is because they wanted a short speaker". Everybody in the audience relaxes and becomes adjusted to me and to my size. I have been eliminated as a distraction and they are ready to listen to my message. Thousands of times people have said to me "Dave, I swear I don't even notice that you're short". C. that is only because I have deliberately tried to act like I don't notice it either. The same thing applies to my nose. I have often caught people staring at it. I still get a shock myself everytime I see my profile in the mirror.

I am a social drinker and I can live with it or without it. Once in a while I may have a drink in one hand and grab my nose with the fingers of my other hand. At that point I will say "I have a perfect way to know when I have had too much to drink - I just feel my nose like this and if it feels real tiny, then I know I have had too much to drink". This psychological device has very often launched a somber crowd into a laughing and happy one.

When I was about eight years old I stopped growing due to the arrested development of my spinal column. I experienced unhappiness for a few years. Girls and ladies are supposed to be small and petite. Boys and men are supposed to be big and strong. All of my contemporaries rejected me. I was abandoned. It wasn't my doing. I wanted to belong. They wouldn't let me. Everyday they dinned into my sensitive ears "go home and tell your Mother she wants you". I did go home because there was nothing else for me to do. I hoped that I was not going to stay rejected.

Maybe I could figure out a way to get back with the crowd. I didn't get sore. I didn't become cynical. I didn't get smart alecky. And I didn't become a cry-baby. I just went on being nicer than the rest of them. Patience and confidence that I was as good as they brought me back into the gang. Maybe I was lucky. I was too young to be that smart. But whatever it was I am grateful. And it has stayed with me right up to now.

My Father died when I was eleven. I had an older brother (also short) and two older sisters of normal height. We had a corner grocery store business with enough to eat but never any extra money for unnecessaries. After two years of high school I got a job as a messenger boy in the United States Shipping Board during World War I. By then I had so much confidence in my own importance that I quit school so I could stay with the Government to help it win the War. I have worked ever since. My education at night schools included a law degree. I opened my law office in 1926. It was rough for several years. But C., those same little extra efforts that had worked so well with my friends were also appreciated by my clients. For example, in Court the Judges and the juries expected less from me than they did from my bigger and more imposing adversaries. I think I got the underdog break. All I had to do was display average intelligence and average ability and right away they gave me credit for more than I deserved. I am far from being a great lawyer or even one of the best in Washington. Yet I have done well enough to get all the creature comforts of life. We eat and dress well. We live in reasonbly good style. We have travelled over much of the World. I have a fairly large circle of intimate friends. The kind for whom I would be quick to do almost anything within my power and I am presumptuous enough to feel that there are many who would do the same for me.

But C., none of this happened by accident. I have continuously worked at it. Integrity can never be compromised. If your word is your bond in everything big or little, the pursuit of life's work is made dramatically easier. No less important is a sense of humor. People like to laugh. Whoever you meet, look them straight in the eye, talk up clearly, act like you are glad to see them. You can't be brazen and you can't be aggressive. You must let the world know that you have self-respect. If you do you will get it back.

At age thirty-three I was a bachelor doing very little to create an enviable public image in the community. I met and married a beautiful five foot girl just turned twenty-one. My income was very modest and I had none of the qualitities that would normally attract a twenty-one year old girl. Then, as now a girl's goal was the tall, handsome, romantic type. Two children and six grandchildren later have proved that my wife recognized and appreciated those things about me which I have already told you about. It wasn't money. It wasn't looks. It was the same story as the one with my friends and my clients. Lucky for me, my wife had the character that

accepted me for what she thought I was instead of for what I looked like. Our family life is all that anyone could hope for. My two sons-in-law never come into or leave my presence without kissing me. I don't think that every son-in-law has to kiss his father-in-law like that. But I can tell you that it is an indescribable delight and I am glad it has happened to me. I don't know of anybody with whom I would want to change places. Some rain has fallen in our lives too. We have had a normal quota of illness. We lost a four year old son. These are all part of life and we accepted them because we had no other choice.

This is my first experience trying to sell the advantages of short stature. Because I want to do a good job I am now going to throw to the winds whatever modesty I may have. I have lived in Washington all my life and I have practiced law here for over forty years. Law is a controversial business. Yet I am not mad with anybody in the world and I don't know of anybody who is mad with me. The young lady who came to work with us in my home before the birth of my younger daughter (now the Mother of three herself) is still with us. My secretary who is typing this letter is in her thirty-third year with me. I like to think my system has even charmed them.

Thru all of these years I have lectured in law school and I have lectured under the auspices of the American Bar Association, the District of Columbia Bar Association, and under the auspices of many other public, private, philanthropic, cultural and otherwise. I have even performed as guest Rabbi at formal Synagogue services.

Whenever I have heard of anyone blowing his own horn about such things, or of anyone distributing literature concerning his accomplishments, I have always automatically placed such persons in an uncomplimentary category. But I am taking the liberty of enclosing some material which I offer to you only in the hope that you will see for yourself that I am not trying to sell you a bill of goods.

First you will see that in 1959 I was on a "Can You Top This" panel with the popular singer Steve Lawrence. Steve was then in the Army living in Washington with his wife Edye and their first baby. Note that I am referred to as "one of Washington's funniest funny men". No longer rejected.

The program of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia celebrating Washington's Birthday on February 22, 1964 featured me as the speaker on some interesting facts concerning George Washington. On the same program was General Charles M. Duke, the equivalent in the District of Columbia to the Mayor of a City. I was not satisfied to tell what everybody knew about George Washington. I went to a little extra trouble and rooted out many strange and rarely publicized facts, including

the long time estrangement between George Washington and his Mother, even to the extent that she refused to attend his presidential inauguration.

Officials of the District of Columbia Government comprise the Municipal Officers Club and I was honored to be their guest speaker in 19-0 as you will see in the enclosed notice whereunder one of our Judges sent out the invitations.

My niece and her seventeen year old daughter Marilyn have lived in Switzerland since Marilyn has been eleven years old. We have seen each other approximately once a year in Switzerland or here in the United States. She wrote the enclosed piece "A person I know" as a school assignment to write about someone unusual. Marilyn goes to school in Geneva with children of actors and other famous people and she has met interesting people all over the world. I naturally felt complimented that she selected me as her subject and said what she did about me.

In 1966 George Jolson (brother of the late Al Jolson) wrote the enclosed letter in which he called me "beautiful". He said that about me only because I had gone to a little bit of extra trouble to be gracious to him. He was happy about it and so was I.

Well, now, if you're still with me, what is the message? What has happened to me could happen to anybody. I am no exceptional intellect. I am no genius. I have no special talents.

If you want to, your short stature can be an asset. It is a character builder. If you recognize this deficiency you will get a natural urge to overcome it. The way to overcome it is to do whatever you do better than someone else would do it. Try to excel in everything you do.

It is a friend maker. You will be more understanding and sympathetic and unselfish. You will be sensitive to the feelings of others. These are the things that make friends. It will work socially, in business, in politics and will even lead you into a happy marriage.

It will give you a keen appreciation of the real values of life. You will not take your other blessings for granted. You will not be upset by trivia. You will find true contentment when you unlick the secret of counting your blessings.

It will give you extra opportunities. It will lift you out of the crowd. You will be noticed. You will get credit for more than you earn. Most people strive to be noticed. Don't pass it up. It is a motivator. You will do well while you're being noticed.

My immediate family now consists of twelve persons. Mutual love and affection between each and every one of us is deeply rooted and richly

rewarding. My life has been meaningful in greater measure than I ever dared to dream. I enjoy the happiest imaginable relationships with a host of friends and business associates. I think I have the respect of the community. I truly believe that all of these good things are just one big ball of wax, representing the natural consequence of the direction which my short stature gave to my life.

C., I sincerely wish for you all of the happiness which I have found. I am confident that it will be yours if you seek it. I will be pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,

David Hornstein

Human Growth Foundation
Parent Education, C-A-L
P.O. Box 22
N. Windham, Me. 04062

1973

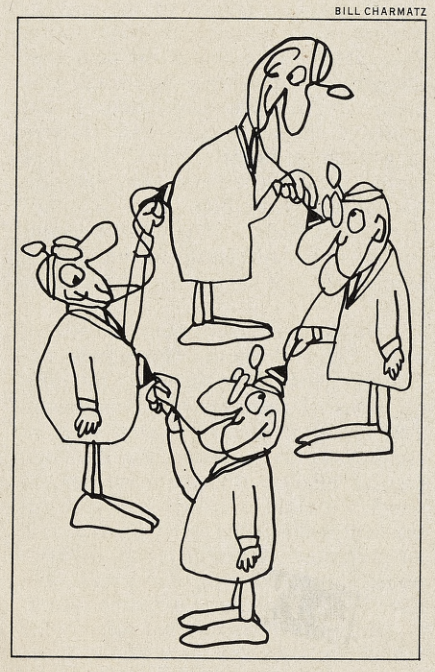
All in the Family

Few expenses have risen more rapidly in recent years than the cost of illness. That may be a source of financial concern to patients and insurance companies, but not to physicians. They and their families generally get their doctoring free or at a discount from fellow physicians, who maintain a tradition known as professional courtesy. "It's just something you expect," says one doctor's wife. "It's like a Mafia —the family takes care of its own."

No one knows for sure how the practice of professional courtesy started. But it may well have begun with the 2,300-year-old Hippocratic oath, which exhorts physicians to regard other doctors as brothers. Modern standards reinforce the custom. The A.M.A.'s code of ethics, which urges physicians not to treat themselves or their families, holds that they should cheerfully provide care for other doctors and their dependents.

Compliment. Though interpretations of just how far professional courtesy should extend vary from one individual to another, most doctors willingly comply with the code. They treat other physicians, their wives and their immediate families for nothing, performing everything from routine examinations to major surgery. Some provide free care to medical students, nurses and hospital employees, and a few even offer discounts to clergymen. But there is one branch of medicine in which professional courtesy is seldom offered: psychiatry. Because psychotherapy may take months or even years, most psychiatrists feel that they cannot afford to waive their fees. Some doctors tend to respond in kind by billing psychiatrists fully for any treatment provided.

BILL CHARMATZ



PROFESSIONAL COURTESY

Most doctors do not feel put upon by the demands of professional courtesy. Dr. Allen Charles, a Chicago obstetrician and gynecologist, delivers from three to six doctors' wives each month without charge. "I guess I should take it as a personal compliment when a doctor sends his wife to me," he says. Dr. Hugh Miller, a Newton, Mass., internist, feels that caring for colleagues is one of the things that sets doctors apart from others. "If you're a tradesman, then act like one," he says. "If you're a professional, then you should offer professional courtesy."

Despite the strong hold that the custom has in the medical community, a growing number of doctors would like to see it eliminated or at least curtailed. Some argue that receiving free medical care makes it awkward to be critical about the treatment if it is unsatisfactory. Others feel that friends may be unwilling to perform embarrassing but vital procedures. For example, in giving a doctor friend a general checkup, one physician failed to perform a rectal examination. The patient was later found to have inoperable cancer of the prostate.

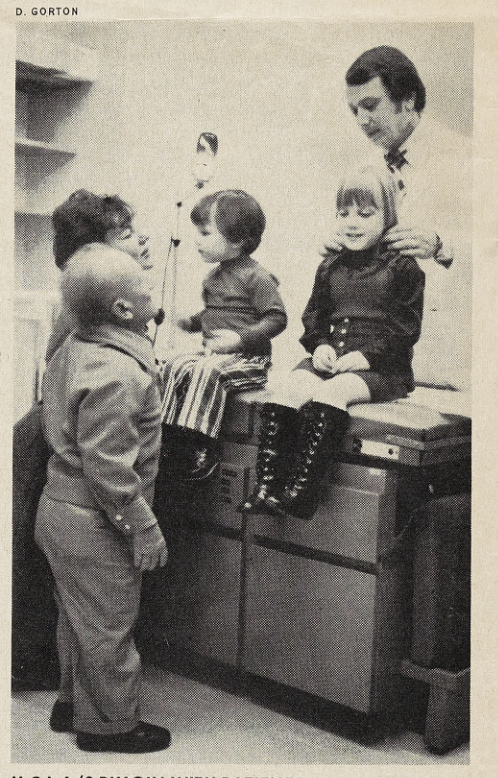
Many doctors, reluctant to impose on other physicians, may avoid seeking treatment. "It leads to an uncomfortable sense of obligation," says an internist at North Shore Hospital in Manhasset, L.I. Others attempt to ease guilt feelings by sending expensive gifts to doctors who have treated them.

To avoid these situations, some doctors have begun to insist upon paying for any care provided by a colleague. "I tell them I will pay my own way or I won't come," says Dr. Donald Johnson, a Manhattan gynecologist. "That way I don't have to send a bottle of booze or something." Others are taking out policies to cover doctors' bills and demanding that those who treat them accept at least whatever the insurance companies allow. But their rebellion is not likely to spread very far. The majority of doctors seem more than willing to abide by the ancient advice of Hippocrates.

Helping the Little People

Since early childhood, Erick Carstensen, 14, has suffered because of his stature: he is a victim of hereditary dwarfism. Erick's contemporaries, who generally towered over him, excluded him from their games. Teachers were often equally unsympathetic, calling him "Shorty" and browbeating him for his inability to keep up with his classmates in physical education. Even the doctors consulted by his parents provided little in the way of relief. According to Erick's mother, Mrs. Dorothy Carstensen of Los Angeles: "They'd all say the same thing: 'Don't worry about it. He'll shoot up overnight.' "

D. GORTON



U.C.L.A.'S RIMOIN WITH PATIENTS
Not all are alike.

Erick has indeed been growing at a faster rate than most of the other 50,000 dwarfs in the U.S. have experienced. But that is only because he has had expert medical help; six months ago, his mother enrolled him in the dwarf clinic operated by the University of California at Los Angeles, the only facility in the world devoted exclusively to the treatment and study of dwarfism. There, twice a week, he receives an injection of a pituitary hormone, the primary substance that triggers human growth. He has grown 2½ in. (to 4 ft. 10 in.) since treatment was started, and the clinic doctors are confident that he will now reach a height of at least five feet.

Short Supply. The dwarf clinic, now marking its second anniversary, is the creation of Dr. David Rimoin, a U.C.L.A. geneticist and one of the world's leading authorities on dwarfism. Rimoin believes that the condition (which occurs once in every 10,000 births in the U.S.) is almost universally misunderstood, largely because so few doctors have taken the trouble to learn about it. Says he: "To most doctors, all dwarfs look alike."

Most doctors might see only one dwarf professionally during their careers; Rimoin's clinic, located at Los Angeles' Harbor General Hospital and staffed by ten physicians, sees 500 a year. Rimoin and his colleagues can now identify at least 50 types of dwarfism, and have determined the causes of many of these abnormalities. Midgets, who are tiny but normally proportioned, are usually victims of an underactive pituitary gland, a pea-sized organ at the base of the brain that is largely responsible for the secretion of growth hormone (HGH). Other dwarfs, who tend to have normal-sized heads and trunks but extremely short arms and legs, usually have different hormone deficiencies.

Like Erick, most midgets, or pituitary dwarfs, can be helped to achieve near-normal growth through injections of HGH. But while efforts are under way to synthesize the substance in large amounts, HGH can now be obtained only from the pituitaries of human cadavers, which are in short supply. Rimoin estimates that 25% of the midget population could be helped by hormone therapy; at present, only 10% are able to obtain treatment.

Heaven Sent. The Los Angeles clinic also deals with many of the other problems connected with dwarfism. Some dwarfs have severe spinal defects that can lead to paralysis if not promptly treated. Others suffer from deteriorating vision and a wide variety of orthopedic problems that most doctors cannot correctly diagnose or treat. Mrs. Estrella Sberna of Los Angeles took her daughter Mary Lou, 12, to dozens of different doctors for problems ranging from a cleft palate to flat feet. But it was only at the clinic that Mary Lou began to receive proper treatment after doctors diagnosed her condition as Kniest syndrome, a type of dwarfism in which the cartilage is dotted with holes.

Actor Michael Dunn, 38, who is best known for his performance in the film *Ship of Fools*, consulted several specialists in search of a cure for the arthritis he feared might force him to give up show business. He finally found help at the clinic, where surgeons operated to tighten his knee ligaments and reduce the pain in his legs. That surgery, says Dunn, saved his career.

Others credit the clinic with preserving their sanity. Los Angeles Housewife Shirley Figone, who is normal sized, was upset about her dwarf son Chris, 2, until Rimoin arranged for her to meet a dwarf couple with the opposite problem—their normal-sized daughter was embarrassed by them. The meeting helped breach the isolation that so often surrounds dwarfs and their families. "We're saving a scrapbook for Chris, cutting out any newspaper stories we can find concerning little people," says Mrs. Figone. "We want him to know that he's not alone."

Rimoin believes that most dwarfs can be helped, physically and mentally. Indeed, he says, even Tom Thumb, the midget exhibited and exploited by Circus Impresario P.T. Barnum, could have achieved near-normal growth had treatment been available 100 years ago. But with that treatment, Rimoin admits, Tom would probably never have become rich and famous.

TIME, MAY 7, 1973

BIG ATTRACTION: Sideshow midget Tom Thumb with his bride, a midget schoolteacher...

Tom Thumb, a midget, boosted his social status by billing himself as General Tom Thumb and saying he was from England.

He was so successful as a sideshow attraction that he became wealthy, owning racehorses, yachts and a fancy house in Connecticut.

And when Tom married a midget schoolteacher in 1863, they received gifts from the cream of American society — and President and Mrs. Lincoln held a reception for them.

The tiny newlyweds later toured Europe, where they faked having a child — borrowing babies to appear onstage with them as they went from country to country!

Reprinted from April, 1973, LPA News

ACHONDROPLASIA BOOKLET COMING

LPA's Medical Advisory Board chairman, Dr. Charles I. Scott, Jr., has written a booklet titled "Achondroplasia." It is written in terms everyone can understand and contains information on distinguishing characteristics, problems to watch for and expect, causes, a table of the inheritance possibilities, and pictures of little people of all ages. The booklet was published as a project of the parent-education committee of Human Growth Foundation and has been furnished in quantity to LPA without charge. Large quantities of the booklet are also being given to medical authorities, public health groups, etc.

As a project of the LPA Foundation, one copy of this booklet will soon be mailed to each family in LPA. Achondroplasia is the most common type of dwarfism, and it is felt that everyone will be interested in the booklet, whether their family is involved with this type or not. Members are urged to show it to their family and friends, to their doctor, and then save it for passing on or showing to any new little people, or their families, they meet who might be achondroplastic and curious to know more about themselves.

Texas
HOUSTON CHRONICLE
Sunday MAGAZINE
MAY 26, 1974

The little people

They aren't ashamed of their size

A child at a roller skating rink asked Colleen Horndt, 22, how she could be little and big at the same time. The housewife is 4 feet 4. Another skater looked her way and said, "Golly, it talks."

An exchange between Harry Burman, 42, and a student:

"You sure are little," said the student.

"Yeah. How old are you?" asked Burman.

"I'm 7," said the boy.

"Well, I'm 5. That's why I'm littler than you."

Burman is 3 feet 11. He works as a host at a Houston restaurant. He tells children, "You'd better eat all your supper. Look what happened to me."

Burman and Horndt are dwarfs. They aren't ashamed of their size. The only thing that breaks their composure is when adults laugh at them. They even understand why some persons stare.

"I stare at people if they're different," says Horndt. "I wonder what's wrong."

The dwarfs met at a Houston area club, Little People of America, Inc., (LPA), for short-statured people. Anyone 4 feet 10 and under can join. Members are mainly dwarfs and their families.

The difference between a dwarf and a midget is this: A midget's head, trunk and limbs are proportioned. A dwarf's are not. His extremities are shorter than the rest of his body.

Selma Burman, 4 feet tall, says she could hold her baby only a few minutes at a time. "You must remember I'm carrying an average size body on legs half as long." Her daughter, now 7, is average size.

There are other inconveniences in being short:

Horndt couldn't find pantyhose until someone came out with a product that fits all sizes. If she's standing between two tall persons in a store, often clerks don't see her. "If I go shopping with my mother, the clerk talks to her instead of me, even though I have the money."

Her husband Grady, 25, is 3 feet 11. Kids pick fights with him because of his size. He says he can't fight back because he's an adult.

Another dwarf, Gail Hull, can reach to dial the phone in a public booth but can't reach to put in the dime.

A few of Selma Burman's average size friends take her hand when crossing a street. She's 40.

Most persons talk down to short-statured people, says Dr. Charles I. Scott Jr., chairman of the national LPA medical advisory board. "They make them feel little, make them feel young. A man 4 feet tall is a college graduate and, my God, he's made to feel like a 5-year-old." Scott is a frequent speaker at local LPA meetings.

THE LITTLE PE

Donald Calhoun, 7, right, swings with his brother Charles, 19 months, a dwarf.

OPLE

Dwarfs Selma and Harry Burman with their daughter Helen, who is average size.

Jeff Hull with his wife, Gail, a dwarf, and their children Denise, 3, in foreground, and Dawn, 14 months, a dwarf.

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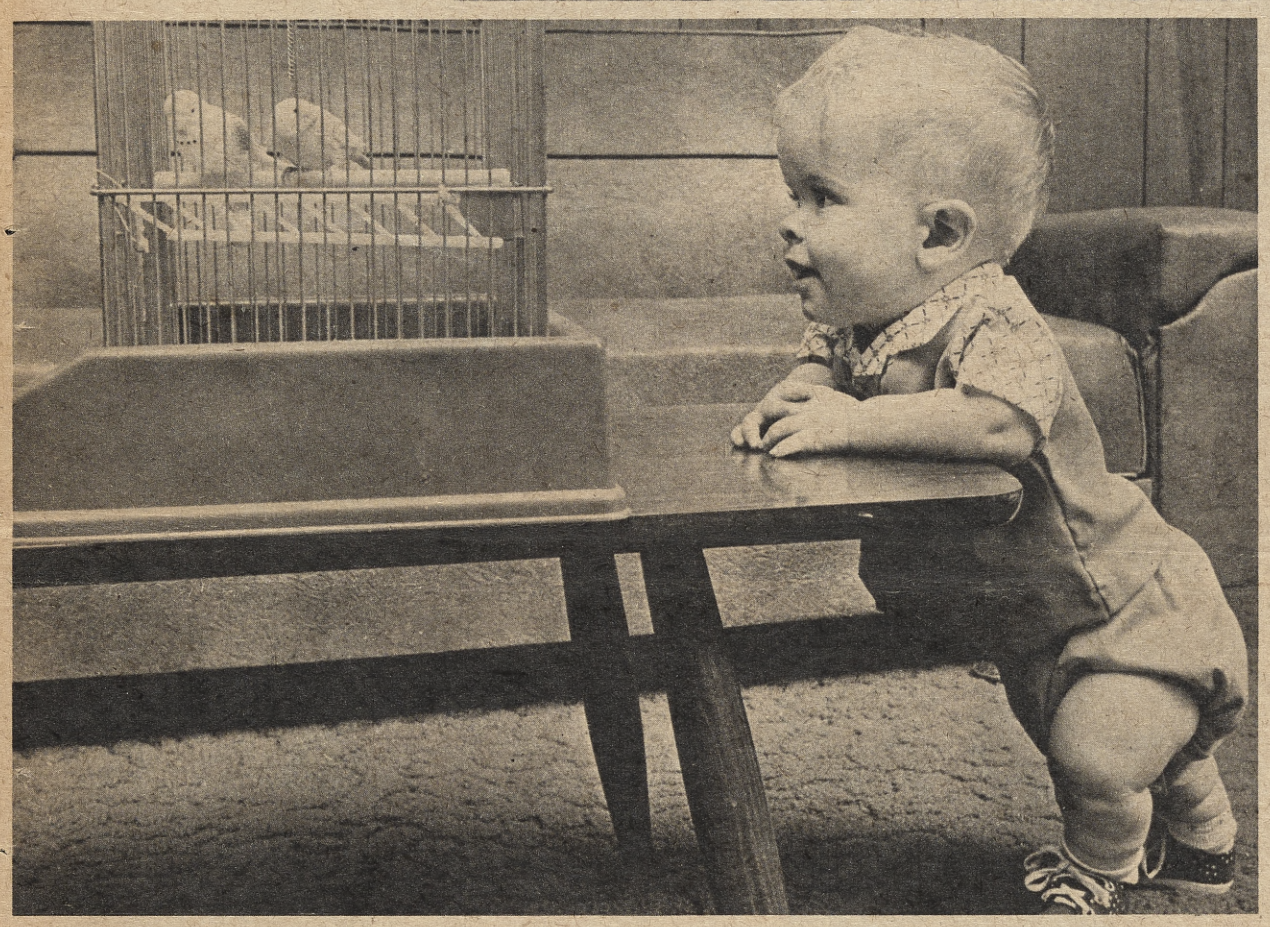

Gail Hull, above left, didn't know the bone disease that stunted her growth is hereditary. She was shocked to bear a dwarf, Dawn, 16 months, in foreground. Jeff Hull and another daughter Denise, 2, are also shown. Charles Calhoun, 19 months, at left, has average size parents. Above is Colleen Horndt. She says she understands why some persons stare at her because she also stares at people who look different.

Continued

never dated a dwarf. "I used to think any man under 5 feet was too short."

Little people don't live in doll houses with small furniture. Their homes aren't modified partly because they would be hard to sell. In Colleen Horndt's mobile home, the mailbox is lower and the lamps are on the floor. There are several stools in the house.

Some little people drive big cars. Grady Horndt, a welder, drives a Dodge Polara with extension controls on the dashboard. Now he wants a motorcycle.

Little people can feel voluptuous or dashing. They are sensual. Their sexual drives have not been stunted. "I can look at a beautiful tall woman and have the same feelings as any other man," says Harry Burman.

Mrs. Hull echoes: "I've always felt like a woman. I do things to make myself look good." She is 28.

Ingenuity comes easily. They know ways to lift a baby from a crib without a stool, and how to comb their hair when their arms can't reach the tops of their heads.

The Burmans own their mobile home and a rent house. He came here from England in 1953 and has never been out of work more than three weeks at a time.

"I've found if I go up to a man and lay my cards on the table, he's going to tell me if he'll hire me. One employer told me he'd measure my performance, not my size."

Finding pantyhose was a problem

Colleen Horndt, however, says she has applied for a job at about 20 Houston firms, and has had no luck. She feels it's partly because of her size.

"I have to talk myself into a job, prove myself. I tell people I'm a dwarf before I go out for an interview because I don't want to scare them. Some say no before I ever get there."

The local LPA chapter has 10 families, 11 single adults and 25 little persons. They are classified as little people, little teens and little littles. Nationally the club has 2,000 members. The Houston LPA address is P. O. Box 19172, Houston, 77024.

Recruiting members isn't easy. Some little people run from other little people, says Selma Burman.

Gail Hull is the local LPA vice president, but there was a time she avoided people her size.

"I didn't need little people. I thought they only talked about how miserable they were. I thought if I were seen with one of them, people would think I was little. I felt better looking than most of them. I didn't need to socialize because I had it made."

Mrs. Hull has two children. One is average size and the other, Dawn, 16 months, is a dwarf. She was shocked to bear a dwarf. No one, not even her doctor, told her the bone disease that stunted her growth is hereditary, she says.

"It hit us pretty bad. Like all parents, we wanted our child to be perfect."

Before their marriage, the Hulls never discussed

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her size. 'I've always loved Gail for what she is," says Hull, 33. Yet when his dwarf child was born, he says he felt "washed out."

The couple was scared. "I didn't know if I could raise Dawn like my mother raised me. She pushed me harder than my sisters to achieve," says Mrs. Hull, who learned about LPA and joined.

Among the causes of short stature are 60 bone diseases that result in dwarfism, says Dr. Charles Scott, director of the Medical Genetics Clinic at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston. The most common is achondroplasia. Growth harmones won't help.

The disease is hereditary. A dwarf and a tall person have a 50 per cent chance of having dwarf children. Two dwarfs have a 75 per cent chance. Their average size children, though, aren't carriers and probably won't have dwarf children.

Yet Terry and Donna Calhoun, average size adults, have an average size child and a dwarf child.

Scott explains: "Most dwarfs come from average

The most nagging question: Should we have children?

size parents with no history of short stature. A mutation, a change, occurs in one parent's genes. We don't know why or where it occurs."

Charles Calhoun, 19 months, is a dwarf. "We joined LPA because it is the only way we know to tell him," says his father. The child's development is normal in all other respects.

Calhoun says: "We wanted Charles to see other people his size. When he starts to school, I'm sure he'll be called names. But he'll have to stand on his own two feet. I can't walk through life with him. He'll have to hone his tongue so he can talk back to hecklers."

When one or both parents is a dwarf, often the most nagging question is: Should we have children?

"In a way, I'd rather have a little little (dwarf baby), but I'm afraid my child would resent me," says Colleen Horndt.

Selma Burman says she was "psychologically prepared" to have a dwarf. She knew the odds. "I had counseling with my minister. We talked things through." There were other concerns, though, when she bore an average size child.

The Burmans wondered what their daughter Helen would think of them.

"From the minute she was born, I dreaded the day she would start to school," says her mother. "I didn't want her to be hurt if the children made fun of her father and me."

The first day of school came and Mrs. Burman went with Helen. She stood in the hall, letting children walk by. "They looked, but they went on," she says. "I felt if they saw enough of me, they would get to know me and wouldn't laugh."

She joined the P-TA and Volunteers in Public Schools, became a room mother and still eats lunch with Helen at school now and then.

Helen is in the first grade. She is as tall as her father, who entertains at birthday parties on the side. "It gives kids a chance to ask me questions about my size," he says. The one thing Helen can't understand is why her parents have to explain the way they are.

Other parents don't.

She says, "I told my teacher one time to tell the kids not to laugh at my mama and daddy. Some kids smiled, but I didn't care as long as they didn't laugh."

May 8, 1975

'LAFITTE' MUSICAL AT LE PETIT THEATRE

Luis Barroso, director of Children's Corner of the Little Theater, announces "Lafitte," a musical written by Sharon O'Brien with music by Fred Palmisano, will be produced May 17, 18, 24, 25, June 1, 7, 14, 21. Saturdays at 1 and 3 p.m., Sundays at 2 and 4 p.m.

* * *

MID-CITY IMPROVEMENT IMPROVES ITSELF

Leo Watermeier, S.J., acting president of a new organization to improve Mid-City, invites everyone interested in upgrading "back of town" along Canal Street toward the cemeteries to a meeting Monday, 7:30 p.m., in Sacred Heart School cafeteria, 120 S. Rendon.

"If you need a ride call me at Sacred Heart Rectory, 827-1551," Watermeier, a Jesuit seminarian, says. The clean-up campaign from Canal to Tulane, Jeff Davis to Salcedo, was a howling — oops! hauling — success. Twenty-four truckloads of trash!

* * *

FOUR FEET TALL? JOIN 'LITTLE PEOPLE'

Anybody who stands only four feet 10 inches tall at full maturity is invited to join Little People of America.

A national organization founded in 1957 by actor Billy Barty, Little People is looking for little people in this area and wants them to phone Carol Cracco at 488-8185, or Dorothy Gill, 283-4901, or Irwin Royes, 947-7545.

Irwin is known as "the world's smallest magician." He says the organizations motto is "Think Big." He thinks it's "the greatest" for anyone with littleness as a problem — educational, emotional, clothes-wise or any other way.

* * *

Maud O'Bryan
Advertising Reporter

LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA — THINK BIG!

Anyone interested in joining Little People of America is asked to contact Carol Cracco, 488-8185, or Dorothy Gill, 283-4901, or Irwin Royes, 947-7345.

Carol and Dorothy can't belong but some of their children can. Irwin Royes calls himself "The World's Smallest Magician."

Any person 4 feet 10 inches or under, at full maturity, is welcome in Little People, a national organization.

Mrs. Cracco says Little People provides members with fellowship, moral support, information concerning solutions to problems unique to little persons, such as educational and employment opportunities, hints on buying clothing or shoes, new findings in medical research, possibilities for adoption where needed.

"We feel it is a great advantage for these people of small stature to meet, socialize and discuss their problems with others their own size," Mrs. Cracco says.

"A meeting of the Mississippi-Alabama-Georgia section in Biloxi last week opened our eyes to so many problems one has to contend with as a little person gets older. I know the organization will be a great help to all the little people in New Orleans. We have belonged to LPA three years but meetings are so widespread they are usually too far away to attend."

Irwin Royes and his friend, Joe White, who argue over which is really the world's smallest magician, claim that Little People have entered practically every occupation and profesion imaginable.

"There are bankers, construction workers, administrators, TV repairmen, accountants and many other workers at the top of their trades who are 4 feet 10 or under," Royes insists.

Maria Scalia, a commercial artist who has done excellent work in The Times-Picayune's advertising department for two years, stands only 4 feet 1.

"I have never had any difficulty because of my height in getting a job," Maria told me. "I worked at Barnett's and Gus Mayer's before coming to the newspaper. I am a graduate of Northeastern Louisiana University in Monroe, and my height never hampered me in college.

"Incidentally, like so many other little people, I am the only person in my entire family who is under normal height. Nobody understands the 'why' of my shortness. I guess it's a mystery of genetics."

* * *

Sunday June 1, 1975

Maud O'Bryan
Advertising Reporter

18 DWARFS ATTEND MIDGET MAGIC SHOW

Customers at Fireside Inn will never forget the magic show put on by midget magician Irwin Royes on May 17. Eighteen dwarfs came to watch him!

Dr. and Mrs. Alain Cracco and Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Gil (not dwarfs, not midgets) led the little people to Fireside Inn as the crowning event of their organizational picnic for Little People of America, that day in City Park.

Mrs. Cracco reports, "One dwarf who planned to attend was having a baby and couldn't come but called to give her regrets. We had one from Houma, one from Lafayette, one from Mississippi. One dwarf is married to an average-sized man. Several different types of dwarfism were represented — it was most interesting."

Mrs. Gil reports, "The turnout for our Little People of America picnic was excellent. We had 47 persons present, with 18 of these being dwarfs. At least 11 are potential LPA members. I feel we have made a good beginning and will continue to see progress.

"Carol Cracco and I feel sure your articles will be responsible for introducing many to LPA over a period of time not yet appreciable. I recall our own response to the first article we ever read about LPA. We clipped it and saved it for over a year before contacting the organization. I hope all Little People, 4 feet 10 or under at full maturity, clipped your column on May 15 and will call us later."

What's the matter with calling now?

pool and tennis courts, living smack on the fairway of the golf course. Kenner never had it so luxurious.

* * *

aug 24, 1975 Times Picayune

Maud O'Bryan
Advertising Reporter

BABY CONTEST AT OAKWOOD, GRETNA

"Wee Miss Oakwood" and "Little Miss Oakwood" are among the titles to be won at the baby contest in Oakwood Shopping Center Mall, Gretna, on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Boys and girls 12 months to 36 months will be accepted in various categories, the cut-off date on birthdates being Sept. 15. Registration deadline is Sept. 11, but since each category will be limited to 25 contestants, it is better to register early, says Sandy Gorman. Trophies will be awarded.

Mrs. Carol Donnes, 362-9711 and Mrs. Linda Gunther, 368-8253, are registering babies now. Also Mrs. Pauline Hackney, 368-2232; Mrs. Darnell Cudahy, 362-8949. The contest is sponsored by Xi Beta Exemplar Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. It benefits their charities.

* * *

DWARFS, ALERT! CONVENTION coming

Dr. and Mrs. Alain Cracco are among Orleanians vitally interested in the midget and dwarf convention of Little People of America. They have a daughter who is an achondroplastic dwarf.

"Nicole is three years old now but no taller than a child of a year and a half," Mrs. Cracco said at 488-8185. "She may reach four feet or more when she is grown.

"Since Nicole's birth, my husband has become increasingly interested in achondroplastic, or other forms of dwarfism. He hopes sometime in the future to begin his own clinic for people of short stature. He also hopes to work with Crippled Children's Hospital on problems of dwarfism.

"There are more than 100 types of dwarfism. There is no cure or preventive as yet. All that can be done for dwarfs is to correct deformities such as backs, legs, arms. Our little daughter, Nicole, was in a cast for seven months. She is very fortunate to have an orthopedist for a father as the orthopedist plays a great part in the medical care of any form of dwarfism," Mrs. Cracco emphasized.

"My husband has researched almost every piece of literature on dwarfism and hasseen possibly more patients with growth problems during three years as a resident physician at Touro Infirmary than anyone in this area. We found out very early, with Nicole, that few doctors here know anything about the problem and most have seen only a few dwarf patients in their entire medical careers," Mrs. Cracco said. "Dwarfs are not just scarce. They are rare."

Nicole will have the opportunity to meet possibly 75 dwarfs of all ages and sizes — under 4 feet 10 — at the Little People of America convention Aug. 30 through Sept. 1. For details, phone Mrs. Cracco, or write her at 2 Virginia ct., 70124.

Dwarfs from six states are expected to attend.

* * *

June 1, 1975

Maud O'Bryan
Advertising Reporter

DWARFS, MIDGETS! PICNIC PLANNED

Carol Cracco and Dorothy Gill received some "unexpected" results to their ad wanting men or women under 4 feet 10 to join Little People of America.

"Short men seemed to be looking for girl friends who were short," Mrs. Cracco reports at 488-8185. "Several men phoned me — very sincere, no jokes, nothing impolite — to tell me they were 'little people.' One said he was 5 feet 4, one 5 feet 3, one 5 feet 2. They all wanted to know how tall I was!

"They were disappointed when I told them I was tall, married, looking for adult individuals 4 feet 10 or shorter. Dorothy Gill said her phone at 283-4901 brought her calls from short men looking for short girls. Dorothy is normal in height too.

"I guess we should have advertised for achondroplastic dwarfs and midgets, to tell them that Little People of America is planning a picnic for them and we would like to invite them. We expect 15 to 20 dwarfs and midgets with their families at the picnic and we want more members for the local chapter of this national organization. But you have to be no taller than four feet 10 at full maturity to join.

"Dorothy and I have children who are 'Little People.' We definitely are not looking for men who are 5 feet 2," Mrs. Cracco related with laughter.

* * *

To the Editor: Many thanks to Lewis Cope for the informative follow-up story on the pituitary gland and its importance. May all the people who might be quick to criticize the Hennepin County morgue practices stop and consider the vital importance of this field of research.

Is permission for removal of this gland so hard to obtain that it must be done without the family's knowledge? If so, then by all means continue in the program of educating the public, so that this kind of donation can be as well thought of as a donation to the eye bank.

Being friends of the president of the Little People of America association, Lee Kitchens, (Richardson, Texas) perhaps my husband and I have heard more of the problem than most normal - sized individuals. — **Mrs. Dal R. Christensen, Minneapolis.**

■

Girl Saves Eden Family From Blaze

Standard-Times News Service

EDEN — Mr. and Mrs. Roger Gandy and their two children are alive today, thanks to the bravery and alertness of a 14-year-old house guest who is now back home with her mother in Waco.

Dolly Shrum, the young heroine, was asleep in the Gandy house at 3 a.m. June 9 when aroused to the smell of smoke and the sound of crackling fire.

She rushed to waken the couple, and then carried their six-month-old infant from the burning building.

Dolly rushed in again, made a second attempt to waken the sleeping couple, and than carried their second child, a six-year-old, outside.

The determined girl entered the burning house a third time, finally waking the parents. Firemen arrived and helped the couple to safety.

Dolly and Mrs. Gandy were treated at Concho County Hospital for burns and released. The heroic girl, who is only 3-ft. 8 inches tall and weighs 75 pounds, went home to her mother, Mrs. Sara Hill.

A fireman said the blaze apparently was started by a smoldering cigarette left on the living room couch earlier in the evening. Damage to the rented house was estimated at $3,000.

Little People of America Inc. Mini-Convention Set for N.O.

A mini-convention of Little People of America Inc., Eighth District, will be held at the International Hotel over the Labor Day weekend, it was announced Saturday by Ronald Rockwood, Grapevine, Tex., District 8 director.

More than 50 members of the organization, founded in 1957 by Billy Barty, 3 feet, 9 inches tall, will come to New Orleans from various parts of the south for the meeting. Barty, 50 years old, is the son of normal parents and has appeared in many Hollywood films.

Registration of delegates is set for Aug. 30 starting at 9:30 a.m. Following a noon luncheon, the little people will board a chartered trolley car for a ride up and down St. Charles Ave. At 2:30 p.m., Irwin Royes, a member of LPA and a professional magician, will stage a special performance in the hotel's Madrid Room. After the show, the Parents Auxiliary of LPA will meet and view a documentary film on the LPA. A rehearsal for the Miss Mini competition will follow.

A tour of Vieux Carre night spots is also on tap.

Miss Ann Cromwell will conduct devotional services in the hotel at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 31. At 9:30 a.m., the delegates will board the Voyageur for a five hour tour of the scenic bayou country. A general business meeting is scheduled at 4 p.m. at which time Tom Deatherage will give a report on the national convention which he attended.

A dinner dance is scheduled at 7 p.m. with the Miss Mini contest as the highlight.

aug 24 1975 T-Pic

Section Three—Page Four — Thursday Morning, August 28

Little People to Meet Here

A southern district convention of the Little People of America will be held at the International Hotel in New Orleans over the Labor Day weekend.

Featured on the program will be Billy Barty who organized the group in 1957. Barty, who is 50 years old and 3 feet, 9 inches, has appeared in many Hollywood films.

The event is expected to draw about 50 little people from the New Orleans area and members from various parts of the South.

Maud O'Bryan
Advertising Reporter

LASALLE ST. BRIDGE TO CHARITY HOSPITAL

Tulane University School of Medicine's rehovation and construction project includes plans for an elevated pedestrian bridge between the medical school, at 1430 Tulane Ave., and Charity Hospital — across LaSalle Street.

This work is being financed, in part, through a grant from the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Edward R. Williams, director of planning of Tulane Medical Center, is advertising: "As provided under the National Environmental Policy Act, any individual or group who believes that this project will have an adverse effect on the environment in the surrounding area or the New Orleans community, or who wishes to make any comments concerning its environmental impact, should submit their comments in writing." Address Williams at the center.

* * *

DWARFS SWARMING OF NEW ORLEANS

"Little Oscar," World's Smallest Chef, four feet six inches high, was in town last week.

"Michu," Smallest Men in the World, two feet nine inches tall, is due with Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus in the Superdome, Sept. 11-14.

Joe White, World's Smallest Entrepreneur four feet six, returns in September, then heads for Mexico where he will be featured on television.

Irwin Royes, World's Smallest Magician, four feet five, will entertain Saturday through Monday, when some 75 dwarf men and women, all under four feet 10, arrive at the convention of Little People of America.

Regardless of what you think, most of these dwarfs and midgets are NOT in show business but have made a success of their lives in spite of the great handicap of small size.

When Ricardo Gil, three feet nine, and his brother Arturo, three feet six, graduated from high school and middle school, their classmates gave them a standing ovation.

* * *

8/30/75

Little people have a big gripe

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. (AP.)—Some Florida little people, fed up with being turned down for jobs because of their lack of inches, have banded together to form a lobby aimed at focusing attention on their problems.

"If you don't have it from the knees down, you better have it from the shoulders up," said William Albaugh, 4-foot-6 and president of the Florida Minigators.

"Little people are tired of being laughed at and stared at," Marie Albaugh, 48, said Tuesday. "Our organization aims at helping them come to terms with their problems and trying to educate the public into realizing that small people can do things just as well as tall people."

Mrs. Albaugh is 3-feet-11 inches tall.

Remoulade

Aug 30, 1975 Times Picayune

About Lilliputians and Chicken-Pluckers

By HOWARD JACOBS

ALL LITTLE PEOPLE and chicken-pluckers, front and center. There are two "conventions" on tap that might strike your fancy.

The Eighth District of Little People of America assembles in New Orleans this weekend to swap tall tales and select a mini-queen at the International Hotel. Then on Oct. 4 falls the World's Chicken-Plucking Championships at Spring Hill, Fla.

Pluckmaster Bill Downs reported that last year a team of four women chicken pluckers set a world's record by plucking 12 hens in one minute, seven and a half seconds. Setting the tone for the main event will be a "chicken concerto" of harmonized plucking and a Miss Drumstick pageant. To enter, write Downs c o Administration Bldg. Spring Hill, Fla. 33512.

As for the wee folk, their rallying cry, unlike the "Hey, Rube" at the circus, is "Hey, Shorty," advises one of our operatives.

Praise Given Explanation of Pituitary

To the Editor: As a nurse I wish to commend you on Lewis Cope's informative Dec. 4 article, "In Dwarfism Victims, Pituitary Extract Inspires Growth."

Such articles do much to interpret to the public that the pituitary hormone (unlike most hormones which can be obtained from animals or made synthetically in the laboratory) can be obtained only from humans through autopsy.

THESE ARTICLES interpret the two - fold need for this hormone: the need for the present treatment of children, who otherwise would be dwarfs, to make them grow to normal size; and the even greater need for research aimed at making the hormone in the laboratory.

The present pituitary controversy (regarding practices at the Hennepin County morgue) can be made a boon if the press and other media use it to interpret the need for continuing collection of the pituitary gland from the dead body to assist children to live and, as Cope said, "to add inches to youngsters destined to remain midgets," and to help prevent dwarfism in the future.

I AM hopeful that this controversy will not pillory the medical examiner, Dr. John I. Coe. This is of deep concern to me, for I have known him for many years as a man of marked ability, dedication and integrity. We are fortunate in having such a man committed to public service. — **Mrs. Carl Dreves, R.N., director emeritus, University of Minnesota School of Nursing, St. Paul.**

Sunday Morning, August 31, 1975 The Times-Picayune, New Orleans, La.

— Staff Photo by Robert T. Steiner.

MR. AND MRS. RONNIE ROCKWOOD, members of the District Eight mini-convention of the Little People of America Inc., stand high at the front desk of the International Hotel and are greeted by Catherine McClendon, cashier. The convention will last through Sunday.

Little People Convene Here

By VALERIE M. HAYNES

Webster defines "little" as not big; small in size or extent; small in comparison with related forms. But for some people, little is life, little encompasses everything. Therefore, little, in this case, becomes big.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Rockwood of Fort Worth, Tex., a happily married couple of nearly 21 months, knows the meaning of the word "little." They have experienced "little" all their lives.

Both are dwarfs and each stands four feet, two inches tall. They are among many attending the District Eight mini-convention of the Little People of America Inc. (LPA) at the International Hotel meeting people with whom they can match eye to eye and shoulder to shoulder.

There was a time when little people would tend to try out show business, but those days are gone. Now only about one per cent of the little people in America are in show business, according to Mrs. Rockwood, whose husband is director of District Eight. Little people these days work as certified public accountants, computer programmers, teachers, engineers — in many fields.

And the LPA helps them get together, provides fellowship, exchange of ideas, and gives them moral support. It also gives normal parents of dwarf children a chance to meet older dwarfs who can assist them in ironing out problems which may arise for the children, who are known in the LPA circle as "little littles."

Billy Barty, a movie personality who stands three feet, nine inches tall, organized the LPA back in 1957 in Reno, Nev. He is the son of normal parents.

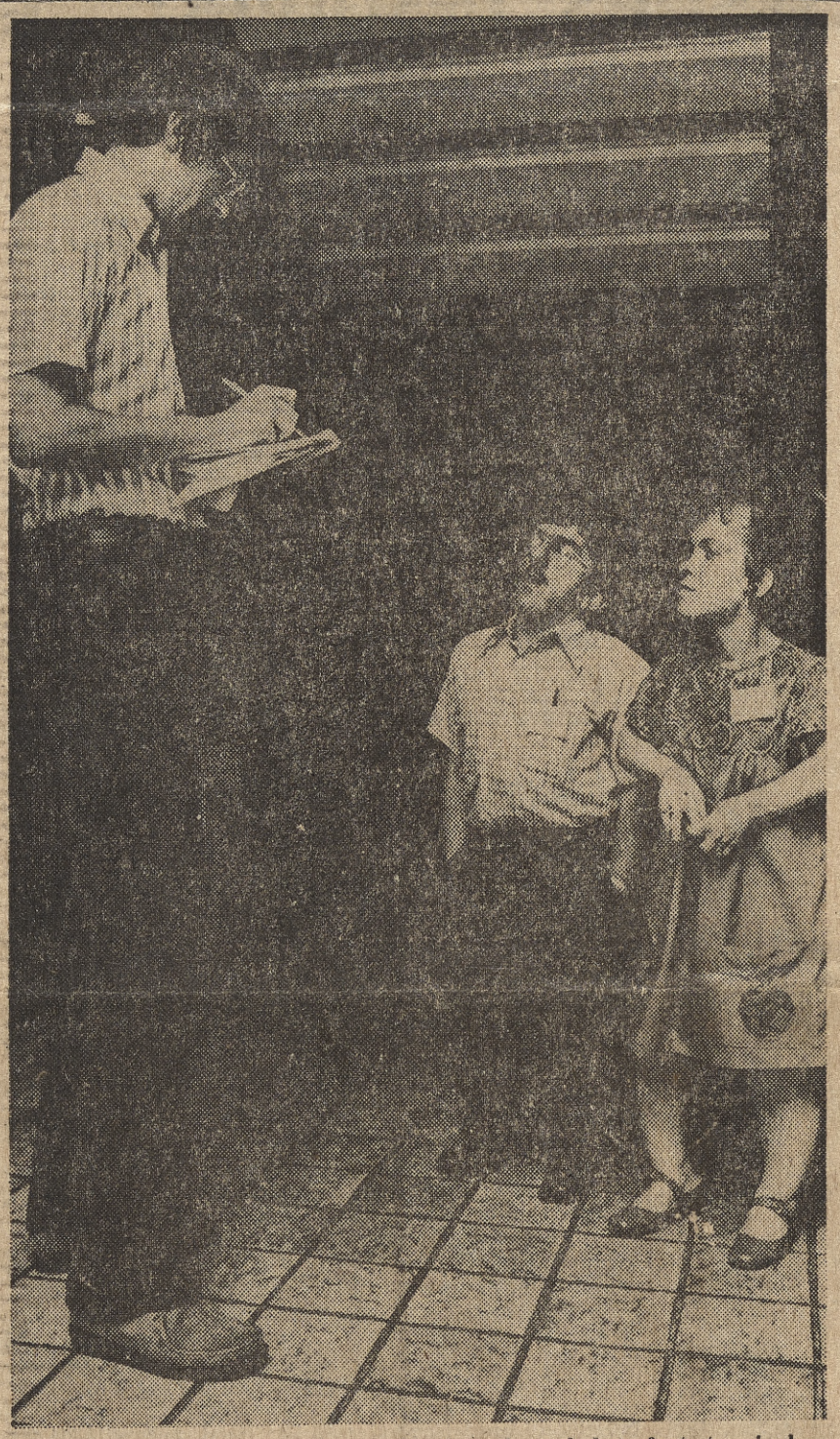
It is possible that two dwarfs can have a normal size child, just as two normal size parents can have a dwarf. Dwarfism is not to be confused with being a midget, though, it was made clear at the convention. A dwarf is a person of small stature whose bodily portions are abnormal. A midget, on the other hand, is also small in stature, but is physically well proportioned — one who "looks just like a doll," Mrs. Rockwood pointed out.

Doctors at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, Md., are doing research on the causes of dwarfism, according to Mrs. Rockwood. Right now there are about 80 types of dwarfism with the most typical type being achrondroplasia, she said. These are dwarfs with large heads and short limbs.

Dr. Alain Cracco, a bone specialist and himself the father of a dwarf child, cautioned against lumping dwarfs into one category. Since there are many types of dwarfs, it is important to get a correct classification, he said.

There are about 2,300 LPA members nationally which consist of "little littles" (dwarf children), "little teens," "regulars" (adult dwarfs) and parents' auxiliary, Mrs. Rockwood said.

The convention, which will last through Sunday, will feature a dinner-dance and "Miss Mini" contest. A bayou cruise, sightseeing, and a swimming party is also planned.



Call them people

Ron and Nancy Rockwood, each four feet, two inches tall, are interviewed by States-Item six-feet, six inch reporter John Pope at the Little People of America convention held here. "We're just normal people, except that we're a little shorter than everybody else," Rockwood said. (States-Item photo by Ronnie LeBoeuf.)

Like anybody —only shorter

By JOHN POPE

The 120 conventioneers who came here for the weekend were just like any other Crescent City tourists.

They rode the St. Charles Avenue streetcar, toured the bayou country aboard the Voyageur, snapped pictures and visited French Quarter nightspots.

But there was a significant difference about these delegates: They were about two to three feet shorter than most other adults because they were attending the District 8 Mini-Convention of Little People of America Inc. (LPA), a 15-year-old organization designed to give short people self-confidence.

"We're just normal people, except that we're shorter than everybody else," said District 8 Director Ron Rockwood of Grapevine, Tex. "There *are* lots of social problems with being short, but most of them are in your own head."

Rockwood, who stands 4 feet, 2 inches tall, said the first social traumas short people have come during their teen-age years, when other people start dating.

"Guys are afraid to ask girls out, and a short girl just doesn't get asked out," he said.

FOR THEIR other problems, short people can solve them with stools or specially designed equipment, including automobiles. But the social hurdle "is harder to overcome than any other aspect of being short," said Rockwood. "From these teen-age experiences, many short people become withdrawn and have trouble functioning in society."

Helping his fellow short people cope was Billy Barty's goal when he founded LPA in 1960. Barty, a veteran entertainer whose film credits include "The Day of the Locust" and the upcoming "W.C. Fields and Me," established an organization that has about 2,200 members nationwide.

LPA has even set up a foundation for such diverse purposes as research into causes and treatment of dwarfism, vocational training for short people and helping adoption agencies place them in homes.

But best of all, Rockwood said, "what happens is that if you can get people with that kind of problem together, they can feel comfortable around anybody."

Through LPA, Ron Rockwood met his wife, Nancy, who is as tall as her husband.

They live in an apartment in Grapevine, where, Mrs. Rockwood laughed, "people think everything we own must be weird, but it isn't really that way. We just have a few extra stools."

However, because of their height, much of their storage space goes unused because they can only reach bottom shelves in cabinets. Their goal is to get a house they can modify to their own specifications.

ROCKWOOD, WHO led the delegates through two days of business meetings and socializing, said the attention LPA has received has changed attitudes about short people—both among short people themselves and among those of normal height.

"Most of the time," he said, "regular people don't think that much about it anymore."

One LPA member who said he has benefited from being in the group is 16-year-old Joe Henley Jr. His parents, brother and sister—all of normal height—attended the convention with him because "they invited us," said Joe Henley Sr. proudly.

Joe Henley Jr. attends Bonnabel High School, where he is the manager of the school football team, the Bonnabel Bruins.

"This group has helped me adjust," he said, smiling, as he met fellow members. "It's made me feel a whole lot better."

Maud O'Bryan
Advertising Reporter

CHARITY HOSPITAL GRADUATES 4449 NURSES

Ruth B. Wallace, R.N., secretary of Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Assn., is trying to reach all 4449 nurses who have graduated there.

This is going to be difficult. Charity Hospital opened its school of nursing 80 years ago. Some of its early graduates long since entered Valhalla. Those who are still earth bound may phone Mrs. Wallace at 524-1781, 7:30 to 4, for news of homecoming scheduled October 25 and 26.

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WINE APPRECIATION AT TULANE

Max P. Zander and associates of Great Southern Liquor Co., Inc., wholesale wine importers, will conduct Tulane University College's wine appreciation course beginning Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Bruff Commons.

Eight weekly sessions permit the student to taste at least 32 wines, American and imported, and enable him or her to appreciate wine, select it for value and food enhancement at home or in restaurants, understand the background of major wine-producing areas and acquire a broad background in the types of wines, their Christian Science Monitor, is also available, plus books for children, records, tape cassettes. Literature can be borrowed from the lending library. Weekly Bible lessons are displayed.

* * *

DWARFS' CONVENTION A REAL SUCCESS

Dorothy L. Gil writes: "Thank you so much for references in your column regarding Little People of America convention, held over the Labor Day week-end.

"As a result of your articles, we received various calls from interested little people under 4 feet 10.

"Your column was also a source of information for a radio announcer, who taped an interview with my son Ricki by phone for broadcast one morning. The convention was a real success —we had 72 registered from Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma and Alabama.

"New Orleans also had good representation and plans were laid for forming a local chapter of L.P.A. here. Ricki, Arturo and I appreciate so much your assistance and we thank you for the generous publicity. Sincerely, Dorothy L. Gil."

Godchaux operate this family-owned enterprise and have added "Lego's," "Dinky Toys" and "Creative Playthings" plus other name brand toys for all ages, puzzles, war games, novelties. Help them celebrate their anniversary Sept. 23, at Holiday and General de Gaulle or phone 362-5765, if you spy Santa Claus too.